Harijan Welfare in Madras State

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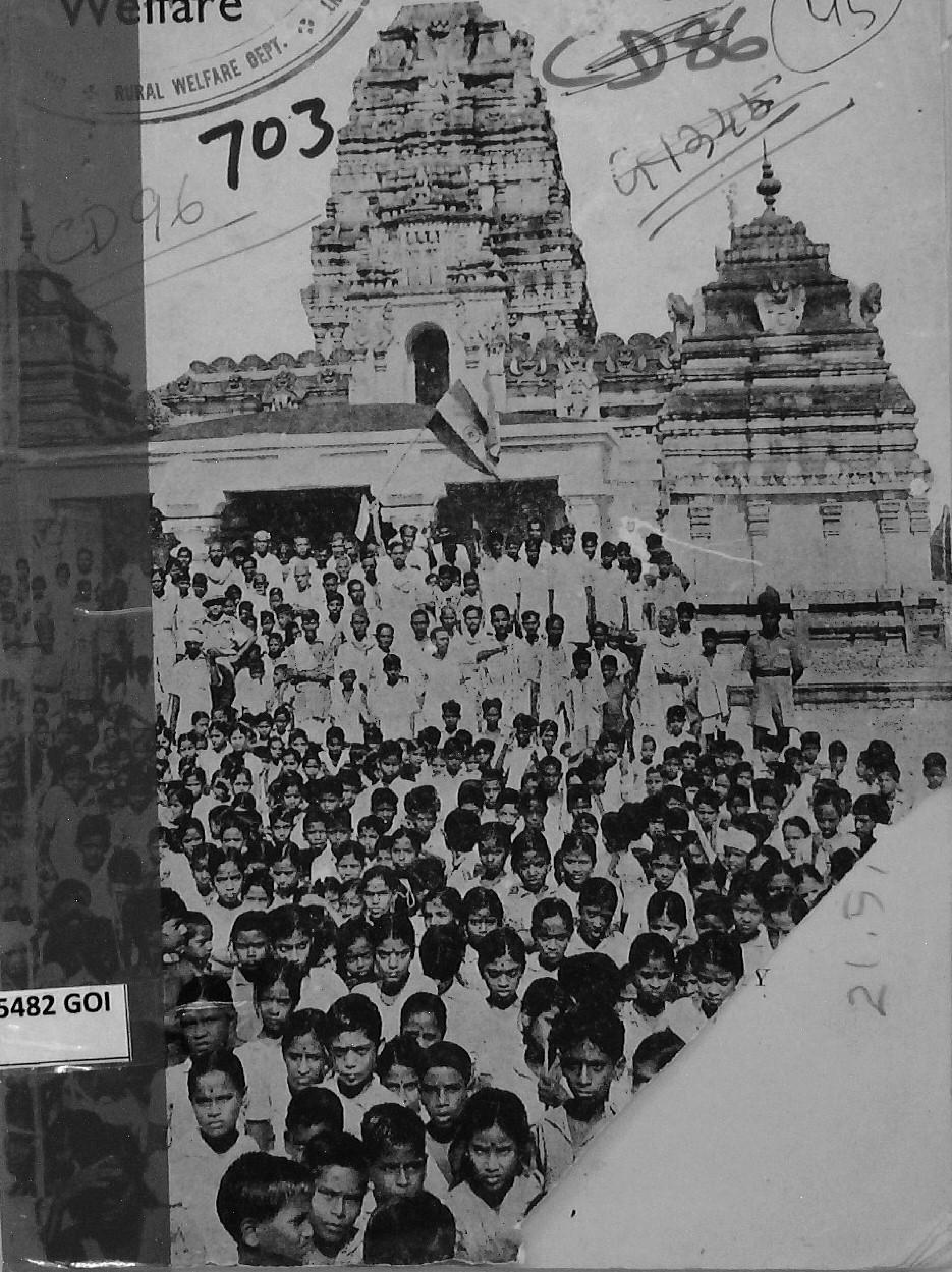

Hon'ble Sri B. Parameswaran, Minister for Rural Welfare

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HARIJAN WELFARE
IN
MADRAS STATE

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PUBLISHED BY
THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

HARIJAN UPLIFT IN MADRAS STATE

PREFACE

Harijan Uplift work was started by the Madras Government more than thirty years ago. It has made such rapid strides, especially within the last ten or twelve years, that it will be difficult for an outsider who sees the present condition of the Harijans to imagine the full extent of the misery, which was their lot till as late as the twenties of this century. Socially they were not merely the lowest strata of the population, but were outcastes, oppressed and downtrodden. Economically, they were the poorest in the land, condemned to a miserable life of hard, monotonous and ceaseless toil such as hewing wood, breaking stone, carrying heavy loads even as beasts of burden, not to mention scavenging, which was considered too low and filthy for any other caste. They were despised and looked down upon as being " so low as to be unfit to be physically touched "; and if any one inadvertently contacted them, it was regarded " as more contaminating than the contact of a smallpox or cholera patient." In fact, a few years ago, even their very presence within sight of the upper castes, was considered as pollution. Consequently, this practice of " untouchability " had degraded the Harijans and consigned them to the lowest depths of ignorance, poverty and squalour. They owned neither lands nor houses, nor even proper huts to live in. They had little freedom to choose congenial employment and earn reasonable wages and little or no education. They were denied admission not only into temples and places of religious worship, but also into schools and were prevented from using such public amenities as wells and tanks. All this has changed for the better within the last thirty or thirty-five years, as a result of the ameliorative measures undertaken by the Government of Madras.

2. Long before the Government undertook ameliorative measures for the uplift of the Harijans, their pitiable condition had attracted the attention of some Hindu social reformers

and Christian missionaries, who have all endeavoured, with temporary and varying degrees of success, to improve their social, economic and religious conditions. But the evil of "untouchability" entrenched as it was behind bigotry, had become so firmly established that it was difficult for them to dislodge it, or to achieve any abiding or substantial results. They could touch only the fringe of the problem. The real stimulus was given, when the Government of India accepted the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Dadabhoy in the Imperial Legislative Council on the 16th March 1916 and commended it to the various Provincial Governments for implementation.

3. It stands to the credit of the Madras Government that they were the earliest to take steps to implement that resolution. This Government realized that the deplorable condition under which a large section of the population lived was an evil of great magnitude crying for immediate and effective redress. They accordingly undertook an exhaustive enquiry into the work that had already been done for the improvement of the depressed and backward classes, including aborigines and the scope of the work that still remained to be taken up. In G.O. No. 748, Revenue, dated 29th March 1919, the late Sir George Paddison, I.C.S., was put on special duty for a term of two years in the first instance to deal with the measures necessary for improving the condition of the Harijans. Later in G.O. No. 271, Revenue, dated 2nd February 1920, he was appointed as Commissioner of Labour and entrusted with the duty of the betterment of the conditions of the Harijans. Since then this Government have been actively and earnestly endeavouring to improve the lot of Harijans by various measures which have steadily grown in volume and variety, and now include, among others, the opening and running of special schools for the education of the children, the provision of scholarships and other educational facilities, granting house-sites, sinking wells and reserving and assigning cultivable lands.

4. But a foreign Government could deal at the most with the material, political and educational aspects of the subject.

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It was left to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, to tackle the socio-religious aspect of "untouchability", which was really the crux of the problem. Under his inspiring guidance and leadership, the Indian National Congress has been working for the eradication of "untouchability" from 1920 onwards. Mahatmaji's epic fast in 1932 focussed the attention of the Hindu Community on the Harijan problem and became the turning-point in the history of Harijan welfare. It led to a general awakening among the Hindus throughout the country, to the magnitude and seriousness of the evil. The general acceptance by the country of the name "Harijans" (God's children) which Gandhiji lovingly gave them and the discarding of the humiliating terms "Untouchables" and "Depressed Classes" betokened the silent revolution that had taken place in the public sentiment.

It was also generally recognized that the association of Harijans with the governance of the country was an effective means of uplift of the Harijans. A beginning in this direction was made by nominating them first to the local boards, later to the legislative bodies, Provincial and Central. Finally, the claim of the Harijans to a due share of political power was accepted by giving them a seat in the Ministry itself. The late Sri M. C. Raja, a Harijan leader, had the distinction of being the first Harijan Minister in the State in the Interim Government formed in 1937 and later in the same year when the first Congress Ministry came into power, Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai, another Harijan Leader, was taken into the Ministry. In the subsequent Congress Ministries, the cause of Harijans has been ably served by Ministers belonging to their own community. Sri V. Kurmayya, the Minister-in-charge of Harijan Welfare from 1946–1949 was also the Chairman of the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee. The Hon'ble Sri B. Parameswaran, the present Minister, has an exceptionally intimate knowledge of the peculiar problems of the community, gained in the course of his training under his distinguished grandfather, Sri R. Srinivasan, a pioneer in the field of Harijan Welfare work.

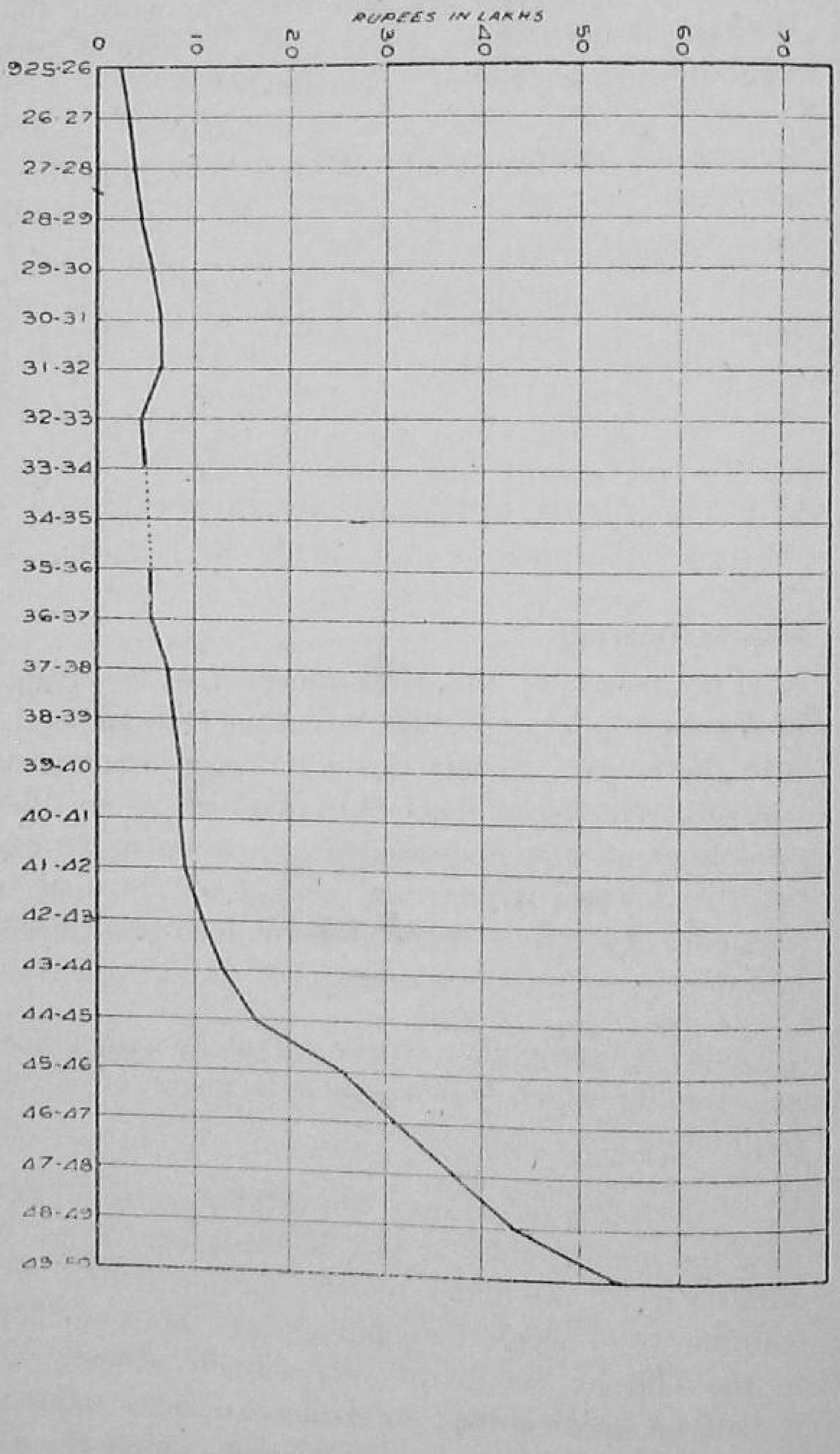
5. Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished "untouchability" and has forbidden its practice in any form.

The Madras State can justly claim to have been the forerunner of the Constitution of India in this respect. The Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities Act—Madras Act XXI of 1938 (as amended in 1947)—was intended to remove all disabilities imposed on Harijans by social custom and usage. In 1939, a more vital and significant step was taken by the first Congress Government, under the guidance of Sri Rajaji, then the Premier of this State. A special Act was passed authorizing the Harijans to enter and worship in the famous Meenakshi temple, Madurai. It was a bold and far-sighted step which led the way to the all-comprehensive Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947, under which all public temples in the State have been thrown open to Harijans for worship. By thus putting on the Statute Book, the Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act, 1947, and the Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947, the present Government have by law eradicated "untouchability" in all its forms.

6. Shortly after the Congress returned to power in 1946, the Government set apart one crore of rupees as a special fund for ameliorative work among the Harijans. A Committee was appointed to prepare a scheme for utilizing this amount to the best advantage. This Committee, known as the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee, made detailed enquiries in the course of an extensive tour and formulated, after careful study, a five-year plan of Harijan welfare work. This plan, with slight modifications, is now being carried out systematically by the Government. In order to accelerate the progress of the welfare work, the Government have created, with effect from 1st April 1949, a separate department called the Harijan Welfare Department, with a Director at its head. He is assisted by two Deputy Directors both of whom are senior Deputy Collectors. For the speedy and efficient disposal of the work in the districts, the posts of District Welfare Officers, which were hitherto in the category of Deputy Tahsildars, have been up-graded and converted into those of Deputy Collectors in eight heavy districts and Tahsildars in the others.

7. The details of the ameliorative work undertaken for the Harijans are set out in broad outline in the following pages.

EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES EXTENDED TO HARIJANS



I. COMMUNITIES ELIGIBLE FOR HELP BY THE HARIJAN WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

There are more than eighty classes or local sub-sects, besides 28 aboriginal and hill tribes to whom the Harijan Welfare Department extends help. A list of these eligible communities is given in Appendix I.

II. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

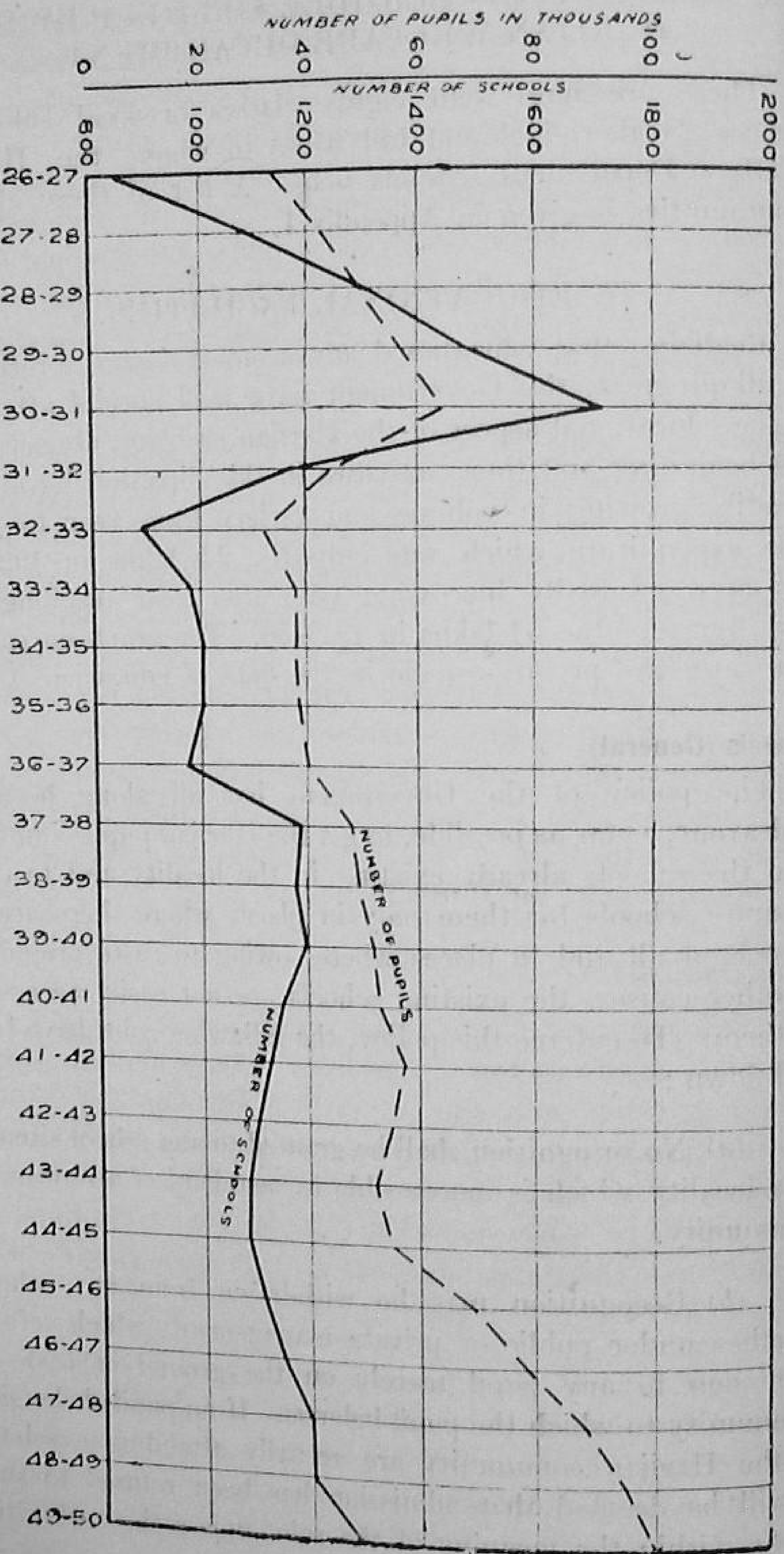
Realizing that educational advancement is the forerunner of all progress, the Government have paid special attention to the educational aspect of the Harijan problem, almost from the beginning and their activities in this direction have been steadily growing in volume and variety from year to year. The expenditure which was only Rs. 2·5 lakhs in 1925–26 has been gradually increasing year after year reaching the high figure of Rs. 54 lakhs in 1949–50. The graph on page 6 illustrates the progress made in the field of education.

Schools (General)

The policy of the Government has all along been to endeavour, as far as possible, to get the Harijan pupils admitted into the schools already existing in the locality and to open separate schools for them only in places where there are no schools at all and in places where, owing to caste prejudices or other causes, the existing schools are not easily accessible to them. To enforce this policy, the following rules have been laid down :—

(*a*) No recognition shall be granted to any school situated in a locality which is inaccessible to members of any class or community.

(*b*) Recognition may be withdrawn from any school, whether under public or private management, which refuses admission to any pupil merely on the ground of caste or community to which the pupil belongs. If no pupils belonging to the Harijan community are actually attending a school, it will be deemed that admission has been refused to such pupils within the meaning of the rule, unless the authorities



NUMBER OF HARIJAN WELFARE SCHOOLS AND THE NUMBER OF PUPILS STUDYING THEREIN

of the school show that no such pupils are residing within a distance of one mile or that there are other satisfactory reasons for the absence of such pupils from the school.

(*c*) No grants shall be paid to any institution (1) which is situated in a locality which is inaccessible to the members of any caste or community or (2) which refuses admission to any pupil merely on the ground of the caste or community to which the pupil belongs—G.O. No. 1446, Law (Education), dated 16th July 1935.

Since the issue of these rules, the Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment), Act (Act XI of 1947), has been enacted; and Harijan children have now equal rights with other children for admission into all educational institutions. In order to provide facilities for admission into the educational institutions the Government have also reserved for Harijans with effect from the academic year 1947–48 ten per cent of the seats in all recognized secondary and training schools and all Government Arts and Professional Colleges including the Law College. The Director of Public Instruction has also arranged with the authorities of aided colleges to make a similar reservation of seats for Harijan students.

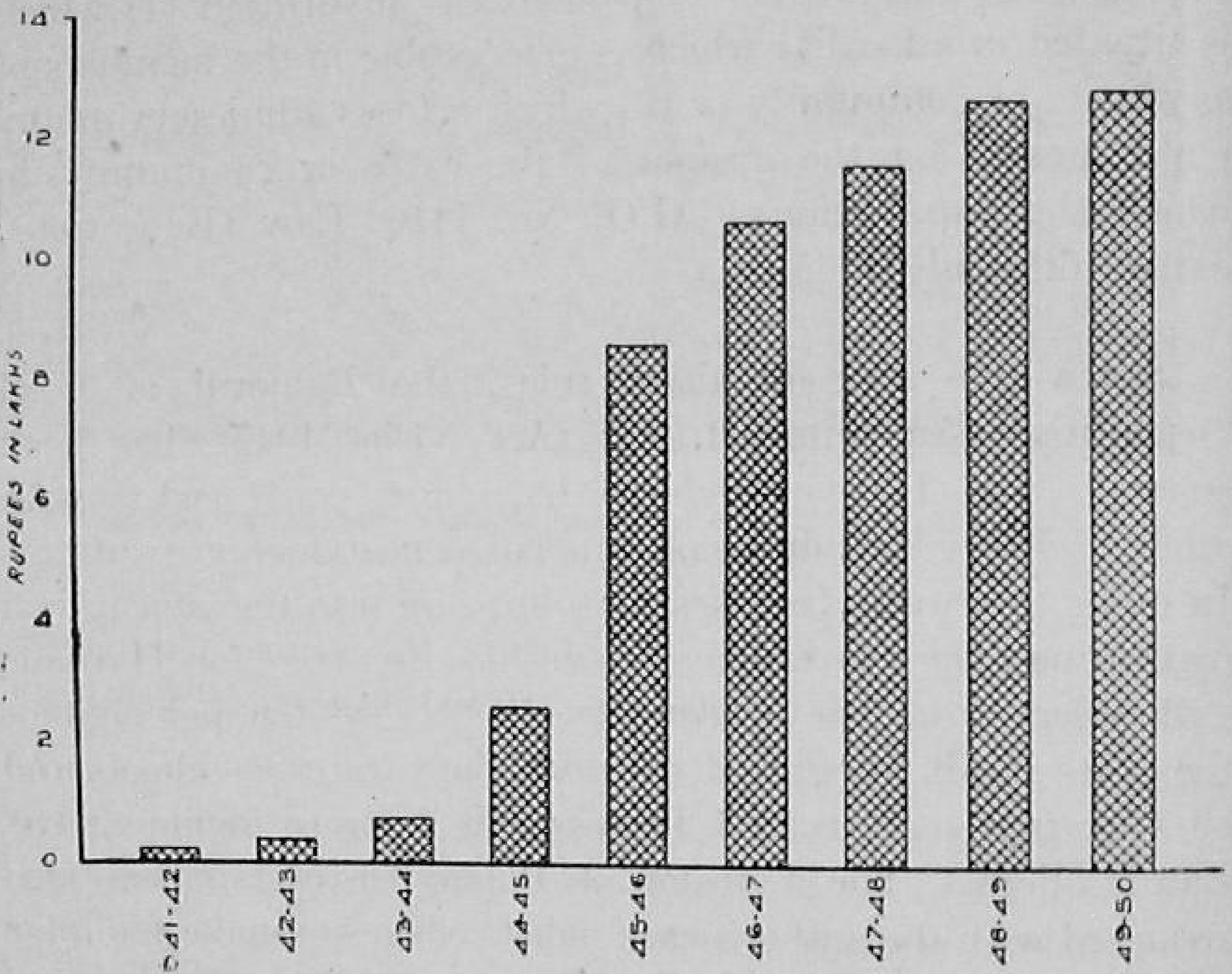
Schools (Special)

The Government have opened special schools to meet the needs of Harijans in certain localities. Their number which has been growing from year to year was 1,292 on 31st March 1950 and they employed 2,834 teachers of whom only 48 were untrained. The total number of children on the rolls on 31st March 1950 was nearly one lakh. The increase in the number of schools and the pupils studying in them from year to year is shown in the graph on page 8.

In these schools midday meals are supplied to children of the eligible communities. This system was first introduced in some of the schools in 1941–42 for the benefit of the under-fed children of these poor folks and has now been extended to all the schools. The expenditure on the supply of midday

meals has gradually increased and has reached Rs. 12,48,271 in 1949–50—See graph below.

EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF MID-DAY MEALS SUPPLIED AND OTHER CHARGES to HARIJAN WELFARE SCHOOLS



A beginning has been made to provide audio-visual education to the school children in four out of the five Harijan Welfare schools in Madras City, and a 16 m.m. Sound-Projector has been purchased for the purpose. Arrangements have also been made for the electrification of the school buildings for the purpose.

16 m.m. films of educational value are obtained on hire as well as free of charge through the courtesy of United States Information Service and projected in the various schools periodically.

Fee concessions

Education in elementary schools whether under public or private management, is imparted free to all Harijan pupils, whatever be the income of their parents. The concession is available even when a pupil fails to secure a pass in the annual

The Hon'ble Minister for Rural Welfare inspecting a site for a Harijan colony in Tanjore District

examination, but only once during the entire course from standards I to VIII—G.O. No. 2740, Education, dated 30th August 1949.

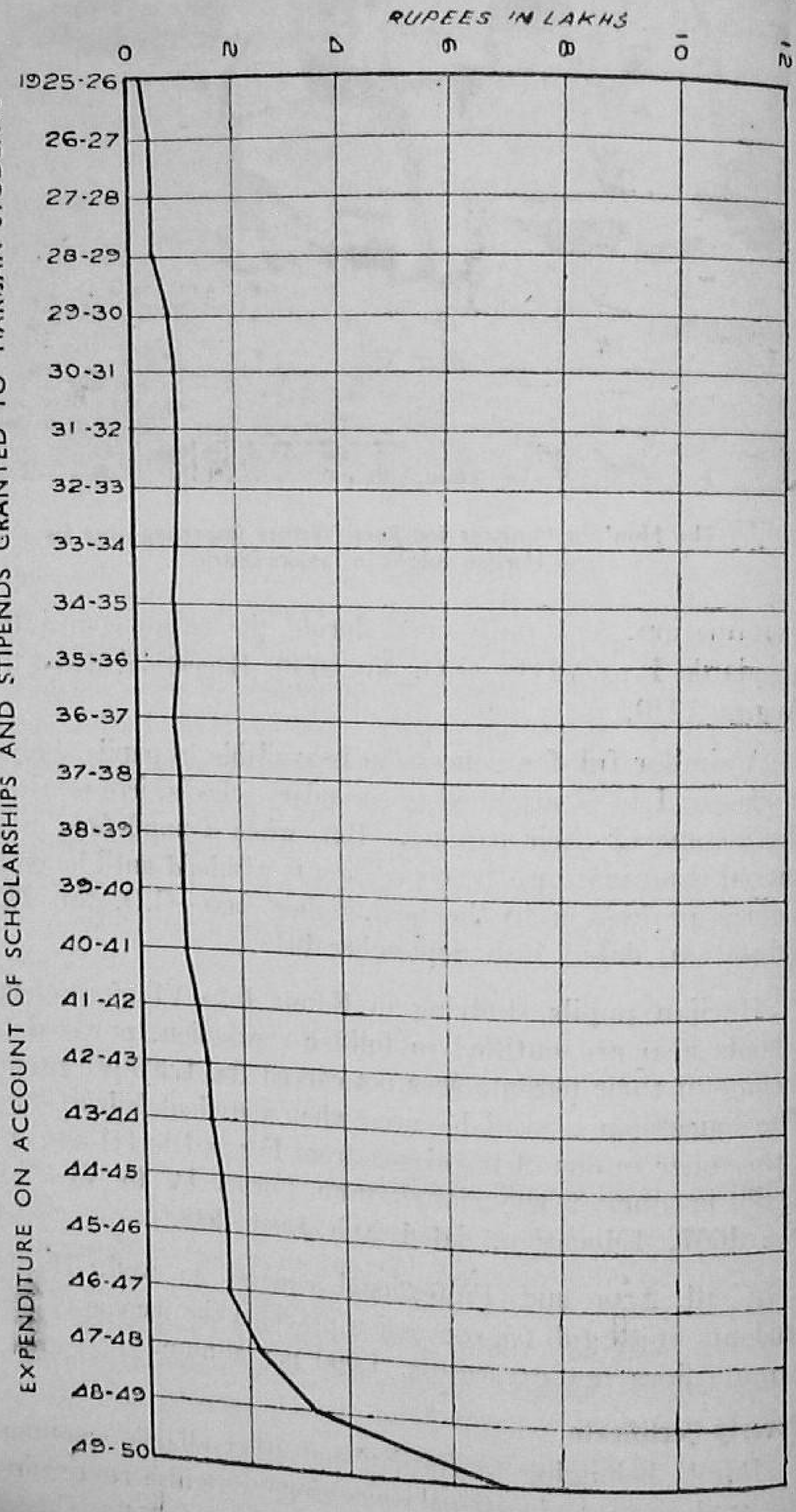
A similar full-fee concession is available to pupils studying in classes I to V attached to secondary schools, irrespective of the income of their parents. But, when a pupil fails in the annual examination, the concession is withheld until he or she secures promotion to the next higher class—G.O. No. 2260, Education, dated 10th September 1948.

Harijan pupils studying in Forms I to VI of secondary schools also are entitled to full-fee concession, provided the income of their parents does not exceed Rs. 1,200 per annum. The concession is available even when a student fails to secure a pass once in one of the classes from Forms I to III and once again in one of the classes from Forms IV to VI—G.O. No. 1667, Education, dated 29th June 1948.

In all Arts and Professional courses as well, Harijan students enjoy full-fee concession provided the income of their parents does not exceed Rs. 1,500 per annum.

Poverty Certificate

Pupils belonging to Harijan and other eligible communities applying for educational concessions were hitherto required to produce a poverty certificate, signed by a Revenue Officer,


EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND STIPENDS GRANTED TO HARIJAN STUDENTS
RUPEES IN LAKHS
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not lower in rank than a Deputy Tahsildar, or from a Police Inspector or other Gazetted Government Officers. This procedure usually entailed delay and inconvenience, as these officers were not always easily accessible. The Government have, therefore, now dispensed with the production of poverty certificates. If, however, the head of an institution granting a concession feels a doubt about the financial status of the pupil, he may call for a poverty certificate.

Scholarships

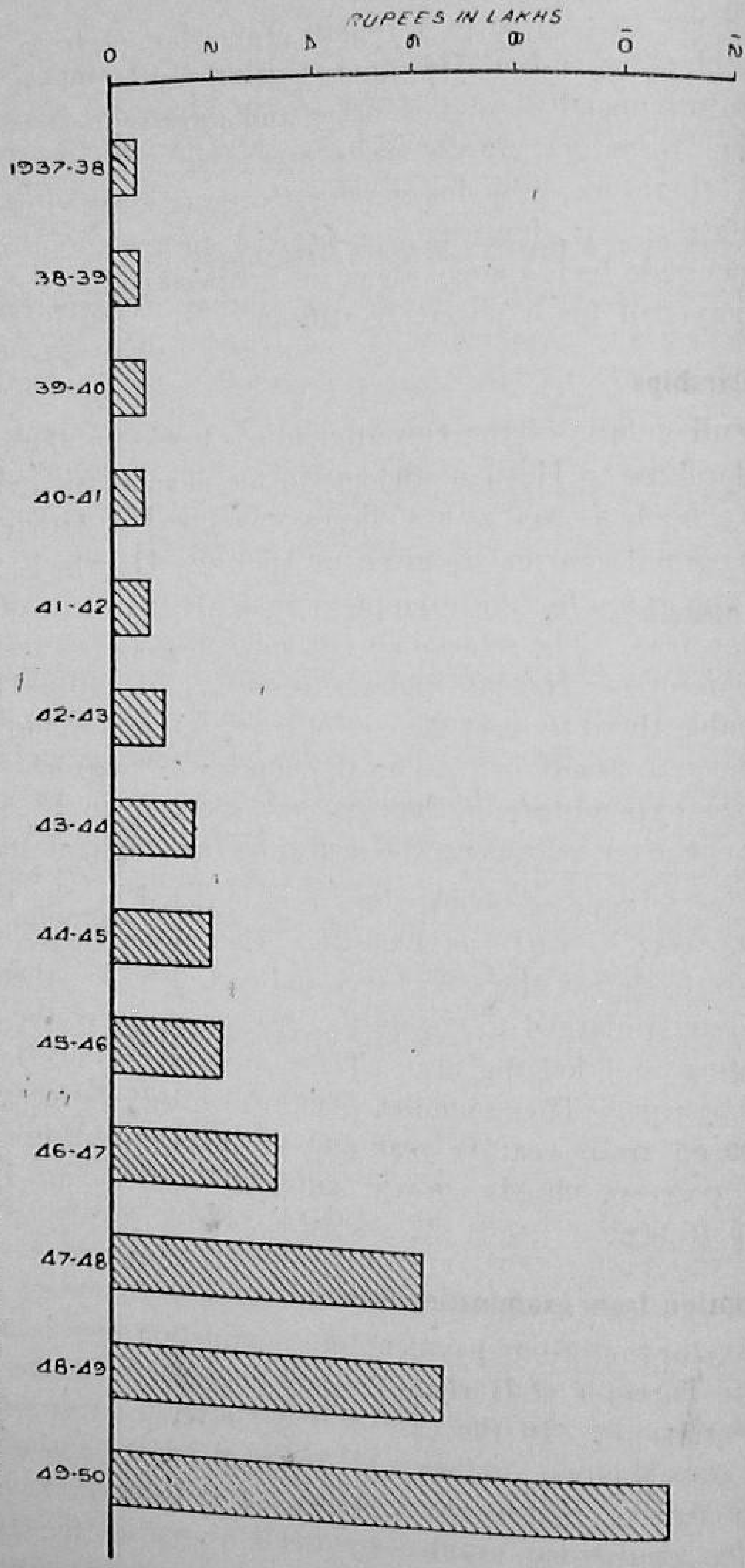
Full details of the Government's scheme for the grant of scholarships to Harijan students in the elementary and secondary schools as well as in Colleges including Post-Graduate and professional courses are given in Appendix II, which contains also the rules for the exemption from the payment of examination fees. The scheme also includes the grant of residential scholarships to Harijan students, residing in recognized hostels, to enable them to meet the cost of boarding and lodging. There has been a steady increase in the number of these scholarships and the expenditure on their account has been steadily increasing year after year as can be seen from the graph, at page 12.

The scheme of scholarships was initiated by the Government even so early as 1923–24. They were then intended mainly to defray the school fees and cost of books; their scope was later enlarged to enable the students to meet the cost of boarding and lodging also. There are now various kinds of scholarships. Their number has, as stated above, steadily increased from year to year and the expenditure has therefore, correspondingly grown, until it reached in 1949–50 Rs. 5,46,902.

Exemption from examination fees

Exemption from payment of examination fees is granted by the Director of Harijan Welfare in respect of Government Examinations. In the case of the University Examinations also, the Madras, Andhra and Annamalai Universities grant either full or half-fee exemptions. For those in receipt of half-fee concession granted by the Universities the Harijan Welfare Department makes grants to meet the other half-fee. Even in those cases where full exemption from payment of fees

EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF BOARDING GRANTS TO PRIVATE HOSTELS ENTERTAINING HARIJAN PUPILS



is granted by the Universities, the Harijan Welfare Department makes repayable advances to the students, since they (the students) have to pay the fees first to the Universities and get a refund only afterwards.

Hostels run by the Harijan Welfare Department

Nineteen hostels are run by the Harijan Welfare Department under the supervision of the District Welfare Officers in the districts and the Deputy Director of Harijan Welfare in the City of Madras. In addition, the Government have recently sanctioned the opening of three more hostels to be run directly by the Harijan Welfare Department. The particulars of these hostels are given in Appendix III.

Private hostels

In addition to the hostels run directly by the Government, there are a number of private hostels for Harijans which are subsidized by the Government. These hostels are given lump-sum boarding grants at the rate of Rs. 15 per mensem per pupil for a period of ten months in a year. In 1940–50, there were 356 such hostels in the State housing and feeding 8,594 pupils; and the expenditure on this account to Government was Rs. 10·93 lakhs—vide graph.

III. PROVISION OF HOUSE-SITES.

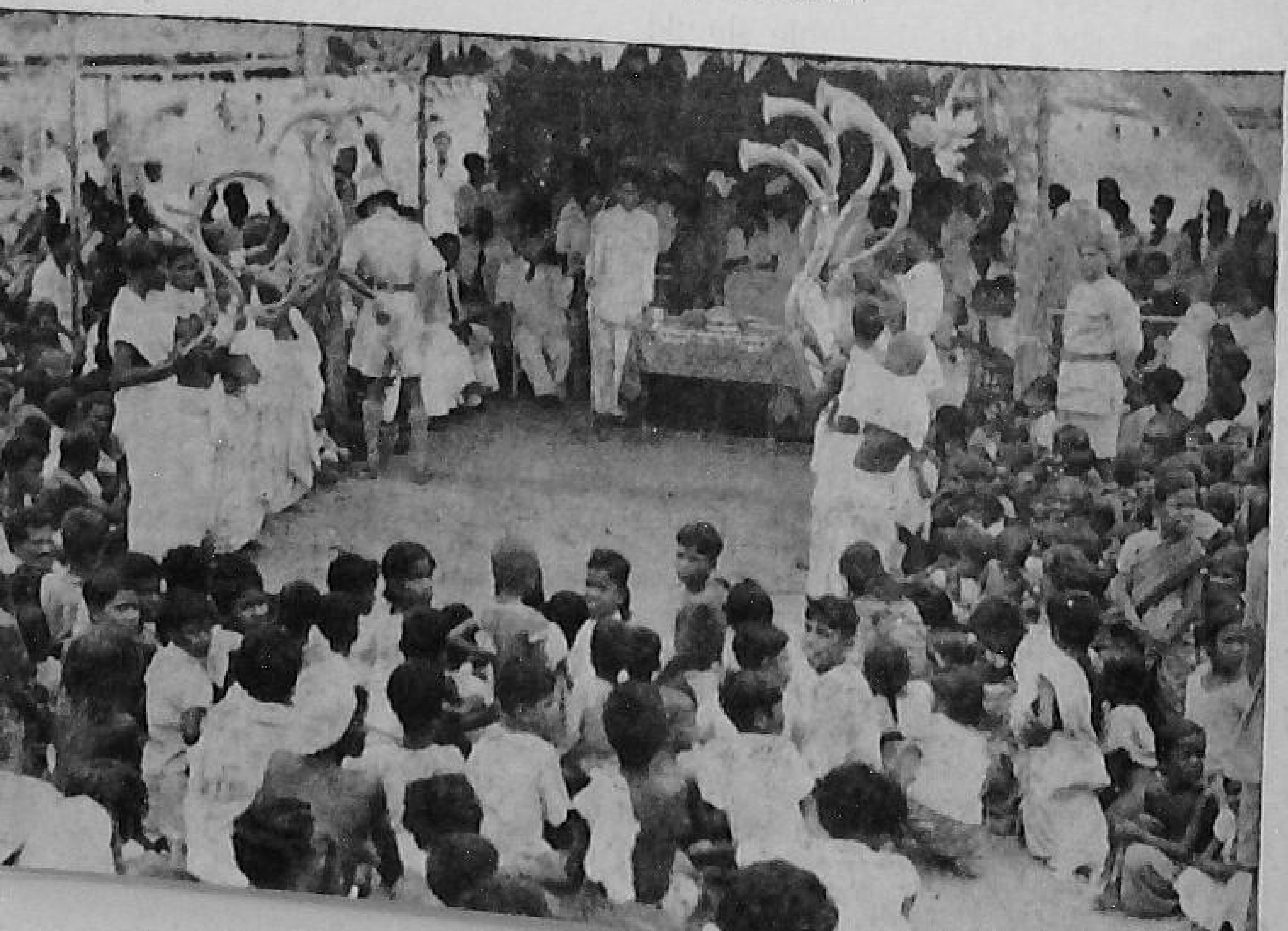
One of the main disabilities under which the Harijans in the rural areas have been labouring is that they generally do not own the houses or huts they live in. Even when they put up huts of their own, they seldom own the land on which the huts are built. They are thus liable to be evicted at any time. This gives the landlord a power of coercion which has been, at times ruthlessly exercised. The Government have, therefore, given a high priority to the scheme of providing house-sites to the Harijans in the programme of ameliorative work. Vacant land at the disposal of Government, if suitable, is transferred to " village site " and distributed in plots among those who need them. But, as suitable Government vacant land is limited in extent, the Government have often to acquire large extents of private land under the Land Acquisition Act by paying compensation. The Government have so far assigned

lands at their disposal for 49,208 house-sites up to the end of 1949–50. They have also acquired private lands for providing 46,001 house-sites up to the end of 1949–50 at a cost of Rs. 24,23,746.

Prior to 1936, the Government were granting loans recoverable in easy instalments towards the purchase of house-sites. Since 1936, they had been showing special concessions by bearing the entire cost of the land required for communal and common purposes and half the cost of the land covered by house-sites, subject to the maximum of Rs. 150 per acre in the case of dry lands and Rs. 350 per acre in the case of wet lands. The present Government have since 1949 further liberalized these concessions. House-sites are now given free of cost to all Harijans, who do not own any, except in cases where they can afford to pay the cost. Each family will be assigned an extent of 3 cents in wet areas and 5 cents in dry areas. This extent is exclusive of the land required for the provision of common places like streets, lanes, pathways, etc., for which as in the past the Government bear the full cost.

Where the Harijans have occupied Government poramboke lands by construction of houses, such lands are assigned to them, if the occupation is not objectionable. Even where the

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development presents pattas to Harijans in a village in Tanjore District. Here he is seen addressing a gathering before presentation.



A Harijan receiving his patta

occupation is objectionable, eviction of the Harijan occupants is usually deferred until alternative sites are provided for them.

In this connexion, the action taken in the Tanjore district deserves special mention. The Harijans in the district have been mostly occupying manaicuts belonging to their landlords. Due to the growing tension between the landlords and tenants in that district, the Harijans were in imminent danger of being evicted from the manaicuts. As the situation called for immediate relief the Government directed that vacant poramboke lands wherever available should be assigned to Harijans and other agricultural labourers for use as house-sites and that where such land was not available, private lands should be acquired for the purpose and have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs for the acquisition during 1950–51. A special staff has also been sanctioned to push through the work with the greatest expedition.

IV. WELLS AND OTHER AMENITIES.

The Collectors of the districts are empowered to sanction non-recurring expenditure up to a limit of Rs. 4,500 in each case on miscellaneous measures connected with the welfare of the Harijans, such as the construction of wells, pathways, latrines and raising the level of house-sites. The Director of Harijan Welfare has been likewise empowered to sanction

expenditure on similar items up to a limit of Rs. 7,500 in each case. The Government have, up to the end of 1949–50, constructed or repaired 8,978 wells (including 21 tanks) at a cost of Rs. 47,37,369.

V. RESERVATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF LAND FOR CULTIVATION.

The old rules for the assignment of waste lands with their insistence on the rights of first applicants, adjoining landholders or those who had actually brought the land under cultivation, had made it very difficult for Harijans to obtain lands for cultivation. In 1918 the Government ordered that the waste lands in every ryotwari village should be examined and a fair proportion definitely reserved for assignment to the Harijans and eligible communities. The extent of land so reserved up to 1948–49 is 827,923 acres.

Further, when large blocks of land, such as unreserved forests, unassessed wastes and land hitherto unnecessarily retained as porambokes were transferred to the head of assessed land with a view to their assignment for cultivation, a substantial share was almost always reserved for the Harijans. This scheme has facilitated the assignment of very considerable areas of land to the Harijans throughout the State. Out of a total extent of 374,798 acres assigned up to 1948–49 201,649 acres had been brought under cultivation. In most districts Christian Missionary Organizations have, on the whole, rendered valuable assistance to Collectors in seeing that

District Harijan Sevak Sangh Hostel, Lalgudi

Sokkanpalayam chuckler's colony consisting of 13 blocks of 41 houses (Coimbatore)

land which was intended for the Harijans came into their possession.

All land fit for wet cultivation is now classed as valuable land and cannot be assigned free. Ordinarily such valuable land is sold in public auction to the highest bidder. But as the Harijans owing to their poverty are unable to compete with the wealthy at such public auctions, the Government have ordered that such lands should be sold to them privately at a fair market price fixed by the Collector, and that the value so fixed should be collected in easy instalments. The Government have since issued orders in G.O. Ms. No. 1523, Revenue, dated 11th June 1949, that land assignment shall be in the following order of priority, viz. :—

(1) the political sufferers;

(2) ex-I.N.A. personnel, and

(3) Harijans and other landless poor persons.

The above orders will however not apply to lands which had been reserved before 11th June 1949 for assignment to Harijans.

Special Harijan colonies have been formed at Divi (Krishna district), Perundurai (Erode taluk, Coimbatore district), and Nayadi (Olavakkot, Malabar district), and lands have been assigned to the colonists for cultivation. Facilities are also

afforded to them for the purchase of agricultural implements, etc.

Valuable lands in compact blocks of 50 acres or more and non-valuable lands of 100 acres and more can be assigned only to colonization co-operative societies composed of the landless poor of whom Harijans form an appreciable number. There are now such 23 societies and of these, an appreciable number consists of Harijans.

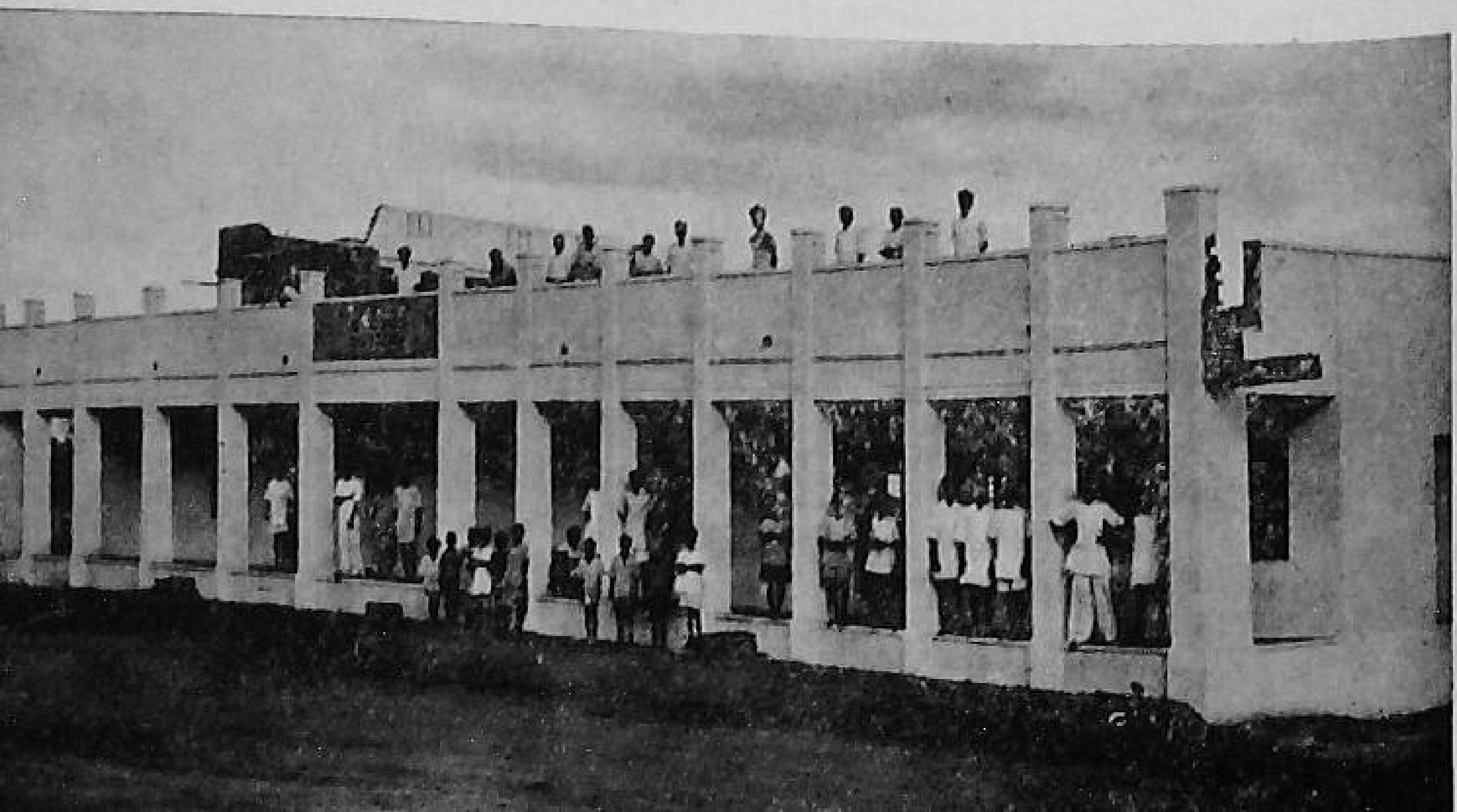
2. "*Lankas*".—In the deltaic areas of the Northern Circars, there are large areas of land subject to submersion during floods and alterations in shape and area from the action of the rivers. These lands are very fertile owing to the periodic enrichment of their soil by deposits of river silt. They used to be leased in open auction annually or for a period of years at high rentals. From about 1922 many of these are being leased without auction at average or reduced rentals to societies or groups of Harijans. Since 1940, the "Lankas" are generally being leased without auction to registered co-operative societies, consisting of communities eligible for help from the Harijan Welfare Department. Needless to add that many Harijans have been substantially benefited by this arrangement.

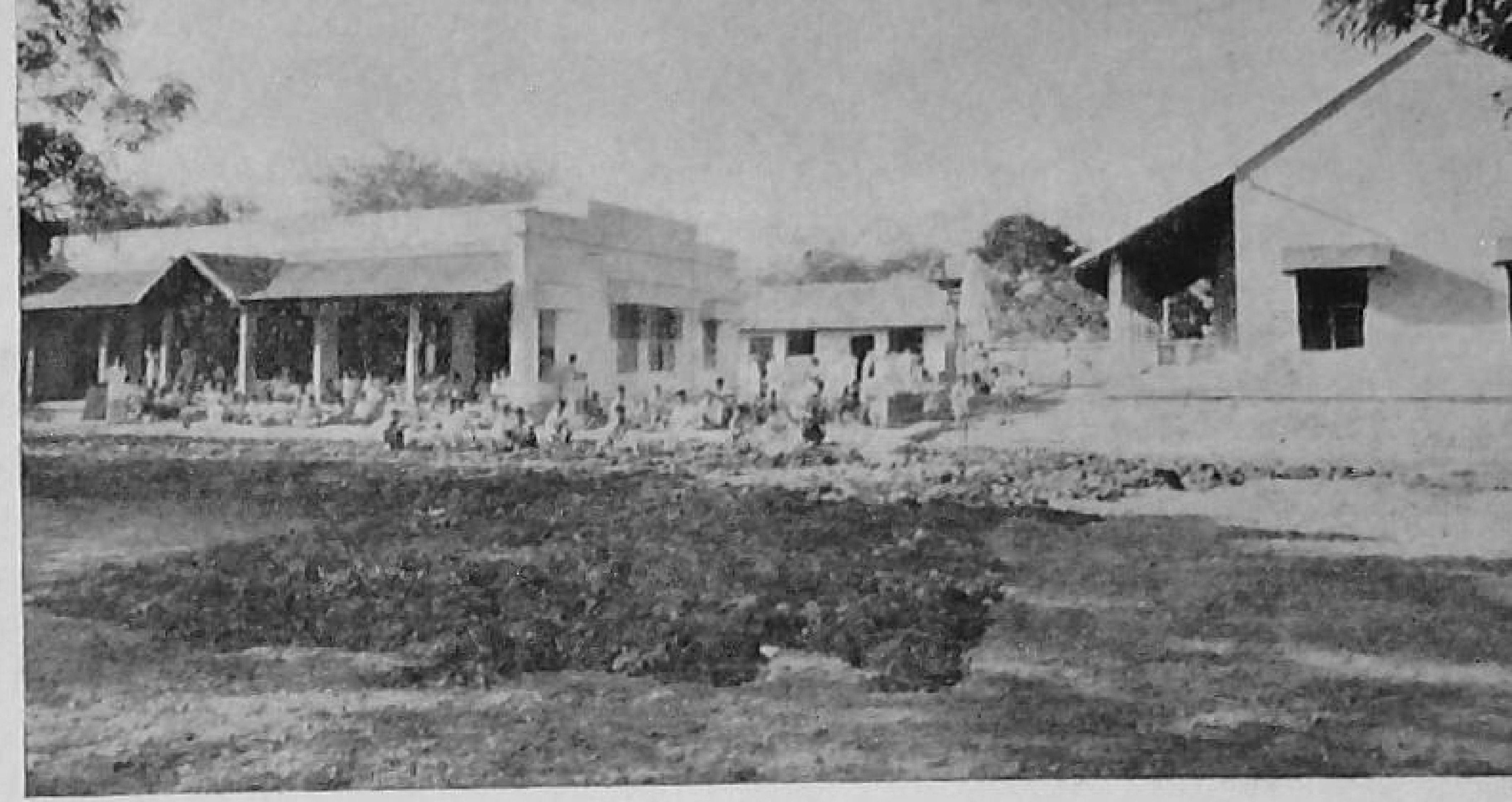
VI. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Co-operative societies have been organized and worked for the benefit of the Harijans for the following purposes :—

(1) For obtaining loans for the acquisition of house-sites;

Thakkar Bapa Enadi Hostel, Nellore





Madurai District Harijan Sevak Sangh Hostel, Madurai

(2) for obtaining loans for agricultural purposes such as purchase of cattle, ploughs, seeds, etc.;

(3) for general credit purposes;

(4) for obtaining leases of Government lands;

(5) for flood relief purposes; and

(6) for development of cottage industries such as manufacture of leather goods and handloom weaving.

Co-operative societies have also been organized for settling the Harijans in colonies by grant of suitable land for the purpose. Government have also extended financial assistance to the colonies by way of free grants under share capital for purchase of seeds, manure and bulls and interest-free loans for reclamation, and purchase of implements. Besides, Government have appointed a special staff, free of cost, to the colonies for supervision of these societies.

The members of the Harijan societies are exempted from the fees leviable under the Registration Act in respect of documents executed in favour of these societies and in respect of the certificates of encumbrance on the properties offered as mortgage to the societies. Government have also been giving "scriptory" grant to Harijan societies through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in order to enable them to pay remuneration to persons employed to write up their accounts.

VII. GRANTS TO PRIVATE AGENCIES ENGAGED IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF THE HARIJANS.

The Government have been sanctioning recurring grants to private institutions such as the Depressed classes Mission, Mangalore, South Kanara district; Olcott Mission, Adyar; D.M.R. Trust, Gopalapuram, Malabar district; Servants of India Society Agricultural School, Mayanur, Tiruchirappalli district; Seither Sevagapandiya Board High School, Rajapalayam, Ramanathapuram district, Gokulam Method Village Welfare Association, Madras, etc., for work connected with education and the ameliorative measures for the welfare of Harijans.

The Director of Harijan Welfare also makes discretionary grants to

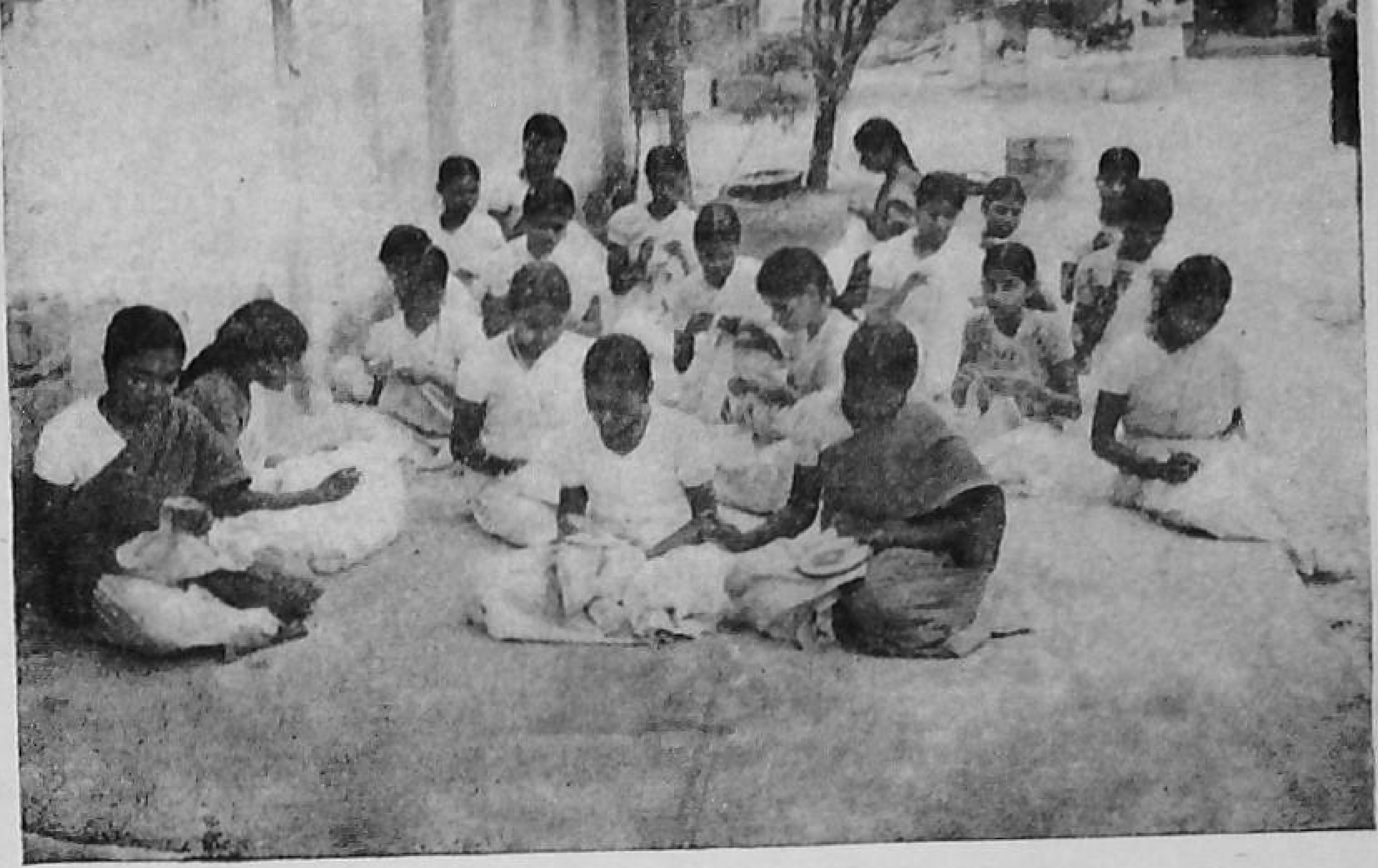
(*a*) societies, institutions and individuals educating members of the eligible communities and improving their social and economic conditions;

(*b*) athletic associations of members of the eligible communities;

(*c*) newspapers, periodicals and other publications intended for and actually engaged in educating the eligible communities; and

(*d*) members of the eligible communities who are in distress on account of fire, flood, cyclone, epidemics or other sudden calamity.

Harijan girls at study.



Harijan girls engaged in Knitting and Embroidery

VIII. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE HARIJANS.

Owing to their extreme poverty, Harijans are generally unable to secure legal aid for either defending themselves in proceedings launched against them by the other classes of people or in conducting cases launched by themselves. The Government have considered the question of giving legal aid to them and have decided that the Collectors should be given discretion to bring to the notice of Government deserving cases, where sanction of legal aid by Government is considered necessary, apart from the assistance provided for in Rule 157 of the Criminal Rules of Practice.

IX. EXEMPTION FROM ENROLMENT FEES.

Harijans who have completed the Law Courses are finding it difficult to join the legal profession, owing to their inability to pay the high stamp duty for enrolment as an Advocate or Attorney. The Government have therefore, decided to grant exemption from this fee in deserving cases on applications made by them.

X. ADMISSION TO PLACES OF PUBLIC RESORT AND HINDU TEMPLES.

The Government have removed all the social disabilities under which the Harijans were suffering, by enacting the

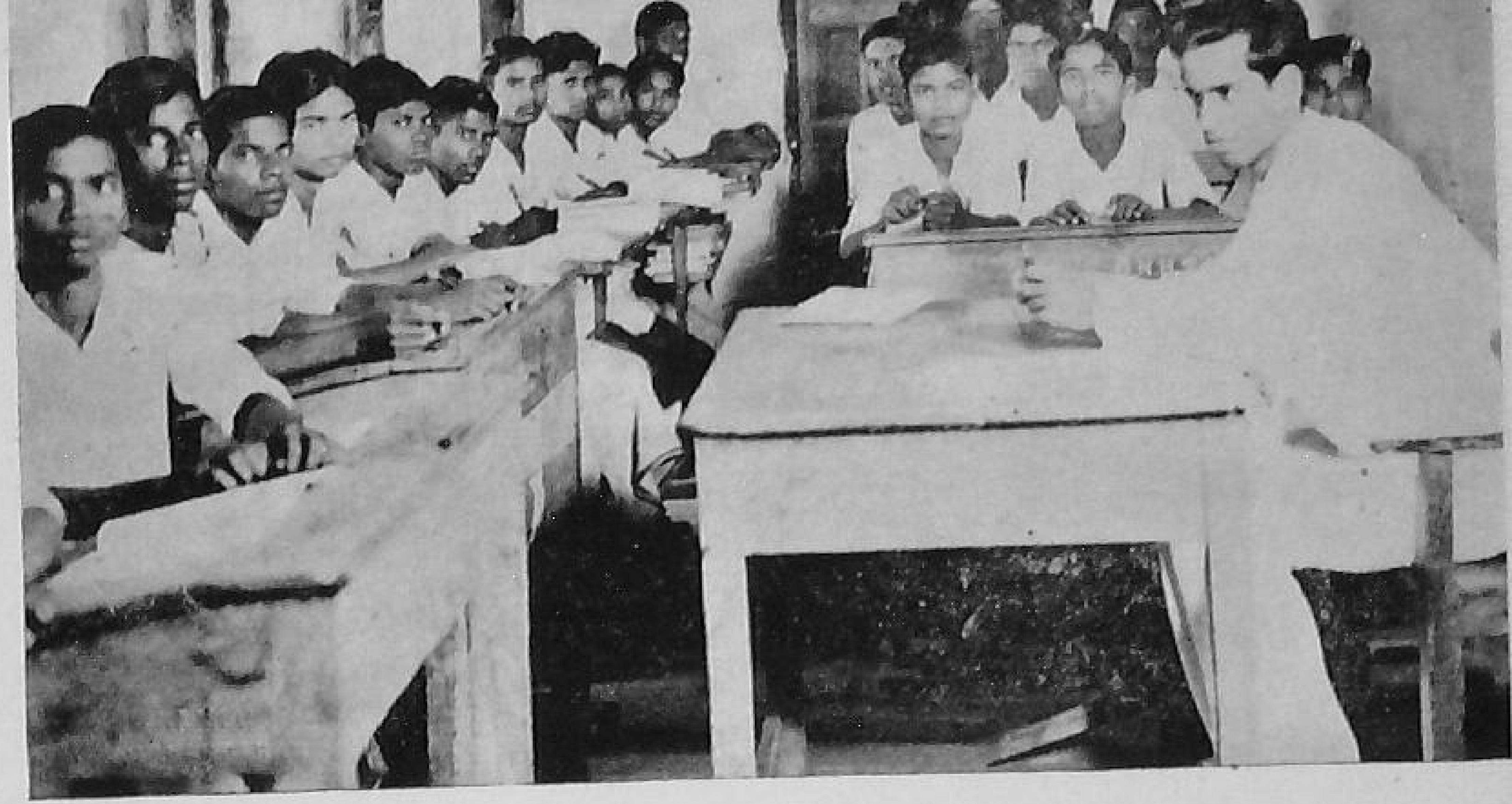
Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act XI of 1947 (Amending the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act XXI of 1938) and the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act (Act V of 1947). The Harijans have now equal rights of access, with other Hindus, to all temples and places of public resort such as educational institutions, theatres, hotels, hostels, shaving saloons, streams, rivers, public wells, tanks and pathways. The offences against the provisions of these Acts have now been made cognizable and are punishable with fine on the first occasion, and even imprisonment in the case of a second or subsequent offence. The Government have given wide publicity to the provisions of these Acts all over the State. These two Acts are printed as Appendices Nos. IV and V.

XI. APPOINTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

In the matter of appointments to the public services, the following concessions have been given to the Harijans in this State :—

(1) For the purposes of the minimum general educational qualification prescribed for appointment to certain services, a candidate should ordinarily have obtained in his Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination 40 per cent of marks in English and in the second language, 35 per cent in Elementary Science and Outlines of History of England and India and Geography. Harijans (including converts to Christianity

Harijan girls at a lesson in cooking



Harijan boys at School.

from any of the Harijan communities) who have obtained 35 per cent in English and in the second language, and the prescribed percentage of marks in other subjects are, however, deemed to possess the minimum general educational qualification.

(2) For admission to the competitive examinations for appointment to various posts and services advertised by the Madras Public Service Commission no fee is payable by a Harijan who has passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts or who has taken a degree of any of the Universities in the State. This concession holds good up to 31st December 1953—G.O. No. 157, Public (Services), dated 19th January 1951.

(3) The age-limit prescribed for the various services and posts does not apply to the appointment of a Harijan to a post for which the special rules prescribe a qualification lower than the degree of B.A., or B.Sc., if such candidate possesses a general educational qualification which is higher than the minimum general educational qualification and he is otherwise qualified for appointment. It does not also apply to Harijan candidate who holds a degree if such degree is not lower than the degree prescribed for the post.

(4) Harijans are also allowed higher age-limits for appointment to certain services.

(5) Besides these general concessions, the age rules, and the qualification rules are also relaxed in individual cases of deserving Harijan candidates.

(6) In filling posts in non-technical subordinate services and posts to which recruitment is admissible by transfer from the Madras Ministerial Services and for which recruitment is not made on a communal basis, preference is, as far as possible, given to Harijan members of the Madras Ministerial Service working in the department concerned.

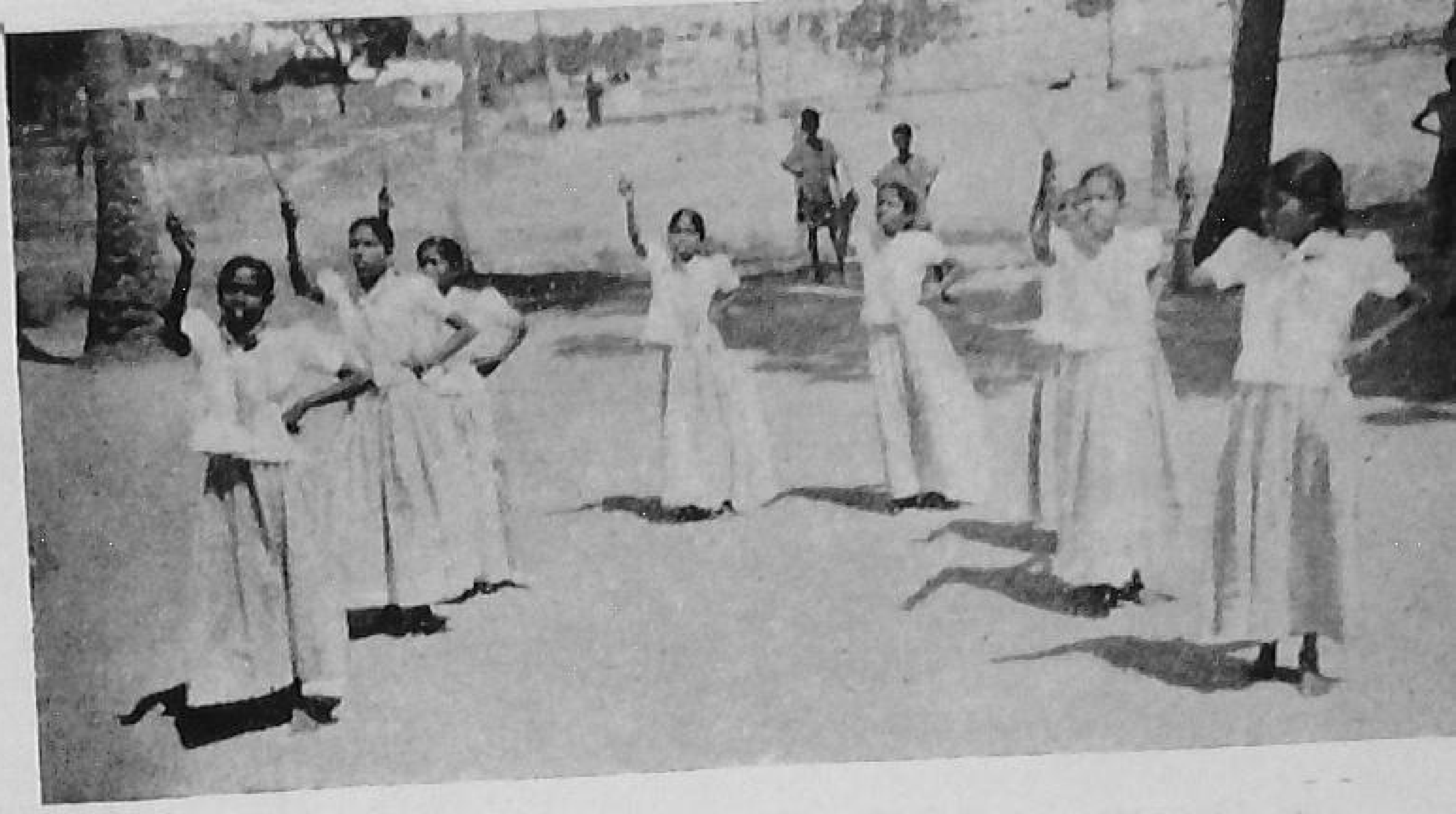
XII. ONE CRORE FUND.

One of the first measures of the popular ministry which came into power in 1946 was to set apart a crore of rupees for the uplift of the Harijans and the removal of their disabilities. This sum is in addition to the usual provision made from the general revenues every year for the ameliorative measures for the Harijans. The peak figure for the expenditure from the general revenues was reached in 1948–49, when it amounted to Rs. 64 lakhs. During the subsequent years, from 1949–50, it has been ordered that any expenditure over and above the peak figure of Rs. 64 lakhs reached in 1948–49 be drawn from the One Crore Fund, which will be reimbursed from the general revenues, as and when funds become available.

XIII. HARIJAN WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The Government considered that the range and effectiveness of the work done by the Labour Department towards the uplift of the Harijans could be appreciably increased by associating with the department, small Advisory Committees

A Harijan Welfare School.



Harijan school girls at play.

consisting of non-official gentlemen with intimate knowledge of the needs of the Harijans and with experience in social welfare work. They accordingly constituted in 1938 not only a Provincial Advisory Board with the Commissioner of Labour as its President but also an Advisory Committee for each district with the Collector of the district as its President. At the instance of the Provincial Advisory Board, the Government extended the activities of the Labour Department which were till then limited to a few districts, to all other districts in the State. So also, the scheme of supply of mid-day meals was extended to the pupils in all Labour schools. The following are some of the other important recommendations of the Board which were given effect to by the Government :—

(1) Confirmation of Labour school teachers;

(2) provision of a separate allotment for the grant of educational concessions of the Labour Department to converts of the eligible communities to other religions;

(3) taking over by Government of the Slater Hostel, Madras, run by the Harijan Sevak Sangh;

(4) institution of a scheme of scholarships for the Law Course, Post-Graduate Course and Compounding Course;

(5) extension of the scheme of industrial residential scholarship to pupils in all industrial schools recognized by the Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras;

(6) upgrading the Nandanar Higher Elementary School for Harijans into a High school.

In 1947, the Government constituted the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee, as a standing committee intended to

advise the Government generally on all matters regarding Harijan Welfare. They were specially requested—

(i) to formulate a five-year plan for Harijan Welfare in all directions, such as providing free house-sites, fresh water wells, sanitation, education, etc., and to draw up an immediate scheme for the utilization of the sum of one crore of rupees set apart for Harijan Welfare work;

(ii) to put forward suggestions regarding improvement of the Harijan Welfare work undertaken by the Labour Department;

(iii) to enquire into and report on the progress of the enforcement of the legislative measures in this field; and

(iv) to examine the possibility of extending the work of the Labour Department in regard to Harijans to other backward communities.

The Government have generally accepted the recommendations of this Committee and are implementing them as far as possible.

XIV. CREATION OF HARIJAN WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Harijan Welfare work was entrusted to the Labour Department in the year 1920. The coming into prominence

Harijan school boys at exercise.

Pathway to a well

Government Wells for Harijans

of industrial labour from the year 1945 onwards and the ever-growing problems connected with it, like strikes, lock-outs, disputes regarding wages, the working of the Factories Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act took up much of the time of the department. The Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee felt that this department could not, under the circumstances, devote its undivided attention to the various problems relating to Harijan Welfare nor expand its activities to the extent necessary. The Committee, therefore, recommended the constitution of a separate department to deal with the problem of Harijan Welfare exclusively, so that the problem could be tackled from all angles. The Government accordingly created a separate department with effect from 1st April 1949 called the 'Department of Harijan Welfare' with a Director as its head. The Government were very fortunate to have secured the services of Sri V. Bhashyam Ayyangar, a retired Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Madras, and a tried worker in the Harijan cause as the first Honorary Director. He combines in himself most of the qualifications suggested by the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee, namely, that the head of the department should be one who has had sufficient experience in the work, who is known for his sympathy for the cause and who has the necessary initiative and drive to formulate and put through schemes. The Government take this opportunity of acknowledging with thanks the readiness with which Sri V. Bhashyam Ayyangar agreed to accept this office and serve the cause of the Harijans, in an honorary capacity, and they have great pleasure in placing on record their appreciation of the very valuable work he is doing for the department and for the Harijans.

The Director of Harijan Welfare is assisted by two Deputy Directors who are both drawn from the category of

Deputy Collectors of the State Civil Service. In the city the Director himself attends to the work with the assistance of a Deputy Director. In the mufassal, the Collectors of the districts are primarily responsible for the work of this department and the Director only co-ordinates their activities. A District Welfare Officer of the Grade of Deputy Collector in each of the eight heavy districts (Guntur, East Godavari, Krishna, Chingleput, Tanjore, Ramanathapuram, Malabar and Tirunelveli) and a senior Tahsildar in each of the remaining districts, except Madras, with the necessary staff are employed to assist the Collectors.

XV. SPECIAL WORK IN MADRAS CITY.

(i) *Construction of tenements.*—To relieve the suffering of the workers affected by the mill troubles in 1921, pucca houses were built by the Labour Department and given to the eligible communities in Paddisonpuram and Ganesapuram in the City of Madras. Half the cost of the construction was borne by the Government and the balance was advanced by the Government as a loan to be repaid in easy monthly instalments spread over twenty years.

Houses built by the assignees on the sites allotted to them were shabby and consequently the Harijan Colonies, though formed on proper layouts, presented a somewhat untidy appearance. The Government therefore constructed a Colony of 37 houses in the year 1942–43 with all sanitary amenities at a cost of Rs. 77,000 in R.S. No. 1847/2 of Tondiarpet called Swathanthrapuram. These are pucca houses let out to the members of eligible communities on a nominal rent of Rs. 3 per house per mensem.

Again in 1943–44, the Government laid out a colony in the Brisleenagar Settlement and constructed 68 huts with all sanitary amenities at a cost of Rs. 70,000. The huts are let out on a rent of Rs. 1-8-0 per hut to the eligible communities.

A proposal to construct raised masonry plinths (16 in number) in R.S. No. 124/1 and 2 of Perambur (near Basin Bridge Railway Station) at a cost of nearly Rs. 9,000 was sanctioned by the Government. The work has been taken up and completed.

(ii) *Lighting in Harijan Colonies.*—The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 13,200 for provision of electric lights in the streets in Strathienagar (Pulianthope colony), Vepery, and the work has been completed.

(iii) *Alternative sites for evicted Harijans.*—Of late there have been several cases of eviction of Harijans by the Corporation or by private parties. To meet this exigency some of the vacant lands in the City have been secured by the Harijan Welfare Department through the Vacant Land Advisory Committee for housing the Harijans evicted. This Committee has since been abolished and the vacant lands are now being obtained through the Collector of Madras.

XVI. HARIJAN DAY.

With a view to educate the general public and make them realize the imperative need for the removal of 'Untouchability', and other disabilities, and also to popularize the measures undertaken for the uplift of the Harijans, the Government have organized the celebration of the 'Harijan Day' on the 30th of every month in every taluk and village of the State. This is gradually yielding good and even remarkable results. In a recent report on the celebration of the 'Harijan Day', the Collector of Chittoor observes :

> "The monthly celebration of the Harijan Day tends to focus the attention of the Caste-Hindus on the sad plight of the Harijans and their duty towards the Harijans and to open the eyes of the Harijans to the measures adopted by the Government for their uplift."

Much the same view was expressed by the Collector of Coimbatore, who writes :

> "As a result of our propaganda there is a perceptible change of outlook on the part of the caste ryots who are coming forward gradually to help the Harijans in positive ways by giving them land for house-sites, deepening and repairing Harijan wells, etc."

These two quotations taken at random from the reports of the Collectors serve to illustrate the healthy change in the mental outlook of the public that is being slowly but surely brought about, though it has to be regretfully admitted that a very

great part of the Hindus, particularly in the rural areas, "is not yet mentally prepared to behave with Harijans on terms of equality."

XVII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION.

And now a word or two about the special provisions made in the Constitution of India for the speedy advancement of the Harijans; for no account of the uplift work done by the Government can be complete without a reference to these safeguards. For purposes of the Constitution, the popular name "Harijans" is not used, but the more precise term "Scheduled castes" is employed. Firstly, under Articles 330 and 332 read with Article 334 of the Constitution there is reservation of seats for a period of ten years both in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States. This reservation, it is needless to point out, will doubtless, go a long way in protecting and promoting the interests of the Harijans. Secondly, Article 335 of the Constitution lays down that "the claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connexion with the affairs of the Union or of a State." It will be seen from what has been stated above under section XII (Appointments to Public Services), that in this respect the Madras Government have more than two decades ago, anticipated the Constitution of India and have provided for preferential treatment to Harijans in the matter of appointments to public services. Again, Article 338 of the Constitution, specifically provides for the appointment of a Special Officer, whose duty is to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards and to report on the working of such safeguards. The President of India has accordingly appointed Sri Lakshmidas Shrikant as Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This Special Officer has entered on his duties on 18th November 1950 and is duly making the necessary investigations. It is to be hoped that he will leave no stone unturned in the promotion of the welfare of the Harijans. A Commission may also be appointed by the President under Article 340

of the Constitution to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes and the difficulties under which they labour and to make recommendations as to the steps that should be taken by the Union or any State to remove such difficulties and to improve their condition and as to the grants that should be made for the purpose by the Union or any State. Lastly, Article 46 of the Constitution says that " the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation." It is scarcely necessary to add that the Madras Government has not only anticipated this important directive principle of State Policy but has also been fully and wholeheartedly implementing it for a number of years past, as can be seen from the above account of the ameliorative measures undertaken by them for the uplift of the Harijans.

CONCLUSION.

The measures described in the foregoing pages cover a wide field. They are designed to ensure the social, economic and educational advancement of the Harijans. They show also the change that has taken place in the policy of the Government within the last 35 years from one of *laissez faire* till as late as 1916, to one of active help and support and even of interference on their behalf, when needed, against custom and vested interests. While the value of the Legislative measures taken by the Government for the benefit of the Harijans cannot be exaggerated, the more eloquent testimony of the concern and solicitude of the Government for the welfare of the Harijans is to be found in the progressively increasing financial burdens they have been bearing year after year in carrying out the various schemes for their betterment. From Rs. 8·7 lakhs spent in 1924–25 on ameliorative measures the expenditure rose to Rs. 28·83 lakhs in 1945–46, to Rs. 35·30 lakhs in 1946–47, Rs. 41·38 lakhs in 1947–48, Rs. 59·33 lakhs in 1948–49, Rs. 76·28 lakhs in 1949–50 and about a crore of rupees in 1950–51. For the current year, i.e., 1951–52 the provision made in the Budget is Rs. 104 lakhs excluding the provision of

6 lakhs for staff. From the figures furnished above, it will be readily seen that after the Congress assumed office in 1946, there has been a marked increase in the Government's expenditure on Harijan Uplift measures. During the last 3 years, the expenditure has been more than doubled, having risen from Rs. 41 lakhs in 1947–48 to about a crore of rupees during 1950–51. There can be no more eloquent or convincing proof of the sincerity and earnestness of the Government, if proof were wanted, especially, when this fact is viewed in its correct perspective and against the background of the present ways and means position of the Government, which being none too good, has, as is well known, called for the strictest economy and the most drastic retrenchment in expenditure all round.

The Government of Madras have been earnestly endeavouring to ameliorate the lot of the Harijans for over three decades and have been taking all possible measures to achieve this end. The problem bristles wiht many difficulties owing to its socio-religious and political aspects. It is so complicated that the Government alone cannot successfully solve it by their unaided resources and efforts, however earnest and determined they may be. While the Government are doing and will continue to do all that lies in their power, the public and non-official organizations must come to the aid of the Government in eradicating this age-long evil of 'Untouchability' and in raising the level of the Harijans to that of the more advanced sections of the population. As pointed out by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in a recent speech "the imperative need is a change of heart among the caste-Hindus".

2. In this connexion the following passage from the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor of Madras, the Maharaja of Bhavanagar, in the Nandanar Girls' School, Chidambaram, on 27th November 1950 may appropriately be quoted in extenso, as it clearly and forcibly expresses and emphasises this aspect.

> "The education of the Harijan community is a task which merits the closest attention not only of the Government but of the public as well. It is one of those tasks to which Mahatmaji devoted himself and which he

has bequeathed to us to carry on. Our ultimate aim, as I have more than once stated is to merge the Harijan community completely in the Hindu fold so completely that in the end it will not be possible to distinguish them in any way from the others. But before we do so, we have to make up for the centuries of neglect and oppression which the Harijan community has suffered. For, unless we do this work, we would be defeating our ultimate object which I have described. In taking the necessary steps to foster this development I would appeal to our caste-Hindus particularly to realise their duty in this matter. They should realise that it is due to their own neglect and to the subjection in which they kept the Harijan community that the latter are now in such back-ward state; that it is due to such measures by the caste-Hindus that we in India are open to this great reproach of having kept millions of our countrymen in this down-trodden state—worse perhaps than even the slaves of olden days, for, at least the slaves were not classed as 'untouchables.' It is for the caste-Hindus to remove this standing reproach to Hinduism. The Government, I can assure you, are fully determined to take every step they can to remove these distinctions. They are fully determined to foster the educational and the economic and social advancement of the Harijan community . . . But we look also to the Hindu community to fully co-operate in this work. And one way they can do this, is, by lending all their support especially in the way of finance, and assistance in furthering this object of education."

At the same time, it should not be forgotten that the Hari-jans have themselves a duty to discharge. The law is now fully on their side and they must learn to demand and obtain their rights in and through the law. They should strain every nerve to make the best use of the facilities and con-cessions afforded to them by the Government and strive hard to come forward. In short, they should play their part well and worthily, if they have to rise to their full stature and find their equal place with all others in society and the body politic.

Critics have, of late, sometimes subtly suggested that the creation of a new department to deal exclusively with Hari-jan problems and the organization of special schools and hostels separately for the Harijans are not steps in the right direc-tion. They argue that such special and separate institutions

exclusively for Harijans, instead of helping to raise their level and bringing about ultimately their complete amalgamation with the caste-Hindus, tend to perpetuate class distinctions. The policy of the Government has been from the beginning to so conduct their activities as to make the Harijans indistinguishable from the Hindus. In order, however, to meet the necessities of the immediate situation, they have been forced to recognize the need for special and separate institutions, but only as a temporary expedient. While these special steps are undoubtedly helping to accelerate the progress of the Harijans in all directions, there is an increasingly growing tendency nay, a definitely pronounced movement, for broadening these institutions and throwing them open to all without distinction of caste, creed or colour, so that there may be a complete fusion of not only all sub-sects and sub-castes among the Harijans, but also of Harijans with non-Harijans, thus enabling them to meet, eat, study, work and live together as equal members of one harmonious and homogeneous society.

APPENDIX I.

LIST OF COMMUNITIES ELIGIBLE FOR HELP BY THE HARIJAN WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

(HARIJANS.)

(*a*) Scheduled Classes.

Depressed classes as scheduled for purposes of the franchise under 'Madras' in Appendix VIII of the White Paper.

(1) Adi-Andhra, (2) Adi-Dravida, (3) Adi-Karnataka, (4) Ajila, (5) Aranadan (also*P.T.), (6) Arunthuthiyar, (7) Baira, (8) Bakuda, (9) Bandi, (10) Bariki, (11) Battada, (12) Bavuri, (13) Bellara, (14) Byagari, (15) Chachati, (16) Chakkiliyan, (17) Chalavadi, (18) Chamar, (19) Chandala, (20) Cheruman, (21) Dandasi, (22) Devendrakulathan, (23) Dombo (also *P.T.), (24) Ghasi, (25) Godagali, (26) Godari, (27) Godda, (28) Gosangi, (29) Haddi, (30) Hasla, (31) Holeya, (32) Jaggali, (33) Jambuvulu, (34) Kadan (also*P.T.), (35) Kalladi, (36) Kanakkan, (37) Karimpalan (also *P.T.), (38) Kattunayakan (also *P.T.), (39) Kodalo, (40) Koosa, (41) Koraga, (42) Kudiya (also *P.T.), (43) Kudubi (also *P.T.), (44) Kudumban, (45) Kuravan, (46) Kurichchan (also *P.T.), (47) Kuruman (also *P.T.), (48) Madari, (49) Madiga, (50) Maila, (51) Mala, (52) Mala Dasu, (53) Malasar (also *P.T.), (54) Matangi, (55) Mavilan (also *P.T.), (56) Moger (Holeya Moger), (57) Muchi, (58) Mundala, (59) Nalakeyava, (60) Nayadi, (61) Padanna (Malabar district), (62) Pagadai, (63) Paidi, (64) Painda, (65) Paky (66) Pallan, (67) Pambada, (68) Pamidi, (69) Panchama, (70) Paniyan, (71) Panniandi, (72) Pano (also *P.T.) (73) Paraiyan, (74) Paravan, (75) Pulayan, (76) Puthirai Vannan, (77) Raneyar, (78) Relli, (79) Samagara, (80) Samban, (81) Sapari, (82) Semman, (83) Thoti, (84) Tiruvalluvar, (85) Valluvan, (86) Valmiki and (87) Vettuvan (Polaya Vettuvan).

*P.T.—Primitive Tribe.

(*b*) Aboriginal and Hill Tribes not included in (*a*).

(Other eligible communities.)

Name of community.	*District (and places) in which chiefly found.*
1 Badaga	Coimbatore and the Nilgiris.
2 Bagata	Visakhapatnam.

Name of community.	*District (and places) in which chiefly found.*
3 Chenchu	Kurnool, West Godavari, Krishna, Cuddapah, Guntur and Visakhapatnam.
4 Gadaba	Visakhapatnam and East Godavari.
5 Gond	Do.
6 Irula	North Arcot, Salem, Chittoor, Coimbatore and the Nilgiris.
7 Jatapu	Visakhapatnam.
8 Kani or Kaniyan ..	Coimbatore and Tirunelveli.
9 Konda Kapu (or Manya Kapu).	East Godavari.
10 Karumbalem	Malabar.
11 Kattunayakan	Malabar and the Nilgiris.
12 Kondh	Visakhapatnam.
13 Konda Dora	Visakhapatnam and East Godavari.
14 Kota	The Nilgiris.
15 Koya	West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari.
16 Kudubi	South Kanara.
17 Kurichan	Malabar and Bellary.
18 Kurumba or Kuruman ..	Malabar and the Nilgiris.
19 Malasar	Coimbatore.
20 Malayali or Malaiali ..	Tiruchirappalli, Salem and North Arcot.
21 Marati	South Kanara.
22 Mavilan	Malabar.
23 Melakudi or Kudiyan ..	South Kanara.
24 Poraja	Visakhapatnam (Agency tracts).
25 Savara	Visakhapatnam.
26 Sholagar	Coimbatore.
27 Toda	The Nilgiris.
28 Yenadi	Chingleput, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Guntur, Krishna, Madras, Nellore and West Godavari.

(c) Members of notified Tribes and their Families.

APPENDIX II.

SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED BY THE HARIJAN WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

General Education.

1. Residential and non-residential scholarships for ordinary education will be awarded during every year to pupils belonging to the communities eligible for help by the Harijan Welfare Department, studying in Elementary and Secondary School and College classes. The District Collectors concerned will award and renew non-residential scholarships to pupils belonging to the eligible communities reading in Standards IV to VIII in Elementary and Higher Elementary Schools except in the case of the Nilgiris and Madras. Applications for the scholarships should be sent to the Collectors concerned. They will be granted only to *pupils of promise* whose pecuniary circumstances are certified to be such as to prevent them from prosecuting their studies without the assistance of scholarships. The head of the educational institution will have to certify (bearing in mind the income limits of parents or guardians prescribed in Rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules) that the pupils are too poor to continue their studies without the help of scholarships.

Applications for scholarships should reach the Director of Harijan Welfare, No. 27, Halls Road, Egmore, Madras, and the Collectors concerned on or before 15th August of every year.

The applicants should not have exceeded the following age limits on the 1st July of the year in which the scholarship is tenable.

Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Fourth standard.	*Fifth standard*	*Sixth standard and first form.*	*Seventh standard and second form.*	*Eighth standard and third form.*
YRS.	YRS.	YRS.	YRS.	YRS.
12	13	14	15	16

Secondary Schools.

Fourth form.	*Fifth form.*	*Sixth form.*
YRS.	YRS.	YRS.
17	18	19

Colleges.

First class.	Second class.	Third class.	Fourth class.
YRS.	YRS.	YRS.	YRS.
20	21	22	23

NOTE.—The age-limit will be relaxed in respect of deserving cases.

Residential Scholarships.

Only pupils of Form IV and above who are not residents of a place within a radius of five miles of the institution are eligible for the residential scholarships. Residential scholarships will be granted only to students residing in recognized hostels. Girls studying in high schools and colleges and residing in hostels attached to the institutions are eligible for the residential scholarships, even though their parents or guardians are residents of the place in which the institution is located. The rates of the residential scholarships will be fixed after taking into account the full lodging and boarding charges in the respective hostels and the amounts intended for fees, if any, special fees, and for purchase of books, etc., tenable in Forms IV to VI. To pupils of Forms I to III, the boarding and lodging charges will be paid at a flat rate of Rs. 15 per pupil per mensem only, when they stay in hostels attached to the schools in which they study.

Madras Seva Sadan.

Ten residential scholarships of the value of Rs. 150 each per annum will be awarded to pupils of the Madras Seva Sadan to cover expenditure on books, school fees, etc., and for boarding charges for ten months' stay in the hostel attached to the school.

Rates of scholarship—

Non-residential scholarships.

Where the pupil has to pay no fees (except special fees, if any, for games, library, etc.) to the institution, the maximum annual value of the scholarship (intended entirely for the pupil's benefit for the purchase of books, note-books, etc., required for the pupil's course of study and for payment of special fees, etc.) will be—

	For pupils in Madras City institutions.	*For pupils in mufassal institutions.*
	RS.	RS.
Elementary schools—		
Standard IV	6	6
Do. V	6	6

	For pupils in Madras City institutions. RS.	For pupils in mufassal institutions RS.
Elementary schools—*cont.*		
Standard VI	6	6
Do. VII	8	8
Do. VIII	8	8
Secondary schools—		
Classes IV and V	8	6
Forms I and II	14	14
Form III	16	14
Forms IV to VI	28	24
Colleges—		
Intermediate—		
Junior	37	35
Senior	28	26
B.A.—		
Junior	51½	51½
Senior	38	38

Scholarships for post-graduate studies in M.A. or M.Sc. courses.

Three non-residential or residential scholarships will be awarded to deserving students for post-graduate studies in M.A. or M.Sc. courses. The rates of the scholarships will be based on actual requirements for education including tution fees, cost of books, etc., in each case, and in no case will exceed Rs. 200 per annum in the case of non-residential scholarships. In the case of residential scholarships an extra amount for actual boarding and lodging charges will be sanctioned.

Scholarships for B.Com. (Hons.) course.

Non-residential scholarships of the value shown below will be awarded to students of the eligible communities studying for the B.Com. (Hons.) course :—

(*a*) First year—Rs. 223-8-0 for books and special fees.

(*b*) Second year—Rs. 23-8-0 for special fees only.

(*c*) Third year—Rs. 23-8-0 for special fees only.

The non-residential scholarships will be converted into residential scholarships in deserving cases.

The pupils belonging to the communities eligible for help by the Harijan Welfare Department reading in the secondary school course will be allowed the benefit of the scholarships granted by the Harijan Welfare Department for a second year in the same class, subject to the condition that this concession is given only twice during the course—once in Forms I to III and once in Forms IV to VI. No such concession will be granted to the students studying in Arts Colleges as a matter of course.

Exemption from payment of examination fees.

The Director of Harijan Welfare grants exemption from payment of examination fees in respect of all Government and University examinations to deserving pupils of the communities eligible for help by the Harijan Welfare Department. The applications for exemption should be sent to Director's office sufficiently in advance in the prescribed form to enable the Director to grant the exemption in time. In the case of the Hindu pupils of the Scheduled Castes, aboriginal and hill tribes and Piranmalai Kallars of Madurai district who appear for the Madras University Examinations, the University grants full-fee remission after the results of the examinations are announced. Such pupils are not granted exemption from payment of the examination fees by the Harijan Welfare Department. But in the case of deserving pupils who are unable to make an advance payment of their examination fees, the Director of Harijan Welfare may grant a repayable advance of an amount equal to the examination fee and recover it from the pupil when the pupil gets the refund of the examination fee from the University.

The Andhra University grants only half-fee exemption to the Hindu pupils of the Scheduled Castes for the examinations conducted by them and the other half will be granted by the Director of Harijan Welfare.

The Annamalai University grants full-fee exemption from payment of examination fees to the pupils of the Adi-Dravida community only ; such pupils are not granted exemptions from payment of the examination fees by the Harijan Welfare Department.

Non-recurring grants for books, clothes, etc.

Non-recurring grants will be granted to deserving pupils of the communities eligible for help by the Harijan Welfare Department

studying in standards and classes I, II and III in recognized schools and to pupils studying for Teacher's training for the purchase of books, clothes, etc.

The applications for the grants should be sent to the concerned District Collectors where Harijan Welfare staff are working. In respect of all other districts, the applications should be sent to the Director of Harijan Welfare, Egmore, Madras.

Forms of applications for grants can be had from the office of the Director of Harijan Welfare, 27, Halls Road, Egmore, Madras, and from the Collectors of districts.

Commercial and professional courses.

Ten scholarships each for Commercial and Compounders' training courses and a number of scholarships for Midwifery course and the various professional courses of study as detailed below will be awarded by the Director of Harijan Welfare, Madras, every year to the pupils belonging to the eligible communities.

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
A. *Commercial scholarships* for pupils learning Book-keeping, Theory and Practice of Commerce, Banking, Commercial Geography, Shorthand and Typewriting.	9 months in a year.	Rs. 36 a year.
B. Compounders' training course in recognized training centres.	12 months ..	Rs. 16 each where the pupils has to pay no fee. Rs. 31 each where the pupil has to pay half-fee.
C. *Midwifery scholarships* for pupils taking up the Midwifery course in any of the 42 * institutions.	18 months ..	In Madras City— Rs. 60 initial payment on admission. Rs. 216 first year, payable in three instalments in July, November and March.

The pupils belonging to the communities eligible for help by the Harijan Welfare Department reading in the secondary school course will be allowed the benefit of the scholarships granted by the Harijan Welfare Department for a second year in the same class, subject to the condition that this concession is given only twice during the course—once in Forms I to III and once in Forms IV to VI. No such concession will be granted to the students studying in Arts Colleges as a matter of course.

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B. Compounders' training course in recognized training centres.	12 months ..	Rs. 16 each where the pupils has to pay no fee. Rs. 31 each where the pupil has to pay half-fee.
C. *Midwifery scholarships* for pupils taking up the Midwifery course in any of the 42 * institutions.	18 months ..	In Madras City— Rs. 60 initial payment on admission. Rs. 216 first year, payable in three instalments in July, November and March.

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
		Rs. 108 next half-year, payable also in three instalments in July, September and November.
		In the mufassal—
		Rs. 30 initial payment on admission.
		Rs. 120 first year, payable in three instalments in July, November and March.
		Rs. 60 next half-year, payable in three instalments in July, September and November.

NOTE.—A dearness allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem will also be granted to each pupil taking up Midwifery training course.

D. Professional courses.

I. *Physical Education scholarship* for pupils taking the Diploma or Special Certificate or Government Certificate course in the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet.	10 months in a year.	Rs. 450 or Rs. 430 or Rs. 400 a year, payable in three equal instalments in July, October and January.
II. B.Sc. (Agriculture).	3 years ..	Maximum of Rs. 50 per mensem towards boarding and lodging charges, etc.

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
III. M.B.B.S., Medical College—		
(*a*) For Pre-registration.	6 months ..	Rs. 61 each for the half-year for essential books, etc., and for special fees.
(*b*) For Post-registration.	5 years ..	Rs. 108 each for the year for essential books, etc., and for special fees.
IV. For Sanitary Inspector.	1 year	Rs. 39 each for the year for books, etc.
V. For B.E. Engineering.	4 years ..	Rs. 57 each for the year for books, etc., and for special fees.
VI. Vidwan Course	4 years ..	First and third year classes: Rs. 20 each per year at no-fee rate. Second and fourth year classes: Rs. 15 each per year at no-fee rate.

NOTE.—Five non-residential scholarships will be granted to eligible communities each year.

VII. Pandits Training Course.	1 year	Ten non-residential scholarships at the rate of Rs. 10 each per year will be granted—five for Harijan and five for Backward communities.
VIII. For L.I.M. (School of Indian Medicine).	4 years ..	Rs. 43 a year for books, special fees, etc.
For Apprentice Physicians course in the School of Indian Medicine.	9 months for men students and 11 months for women students.	Rs. 4 for the entire course.

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
IX. For B.V.Sc. Veterinary.	4 years ..	Rs. 23–8–0 each for essential books, etc., and for special fees.
X. For B.T. or B.Ed. course.	1 year	Actual requirements for education, special fees, cost of books, etc., subject to a maximum of Rs. 190 in the case of non-residential and in the case of residential scholarships, the actual boarding and lodging charges will be granted in addition to the non-residential scholarships. (The total number of scholarships both—residential and non-residential is three.)
XI. For Law course.	3 years ..	First year F.L. course: Rs. 71, no-fee rate. Second year B.L. Course: Rs. 93, no-fee rate. Third year apprentice: Rs. 52, no-fee rate. The total number of non-residential scholarships every year for the Law course is sixteen of which five will be granted to poor and deserving students

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*		
		from communities belonging to Yerukula, Yenadi and other aboriginal tribes and the remaining eleven to Harijan students.		
XI-A. Law Preliminary.	1 year ..	.. Five non-residential scholarships of the value of Rs. 59 each per annum to students of the eligible communities.		

NOTE.—The value of the scholarships will be increased by an amount equal to the actual tution fee, if any, that the student concerned has to pay.

XII. For Diploma in Medical Radiology and Diploma as Certified Radiological Assistant courses.	1 year ..	.. Two non-residential scholarships of the values shown below will be awarded to the pupils belonging to eligible communities studying for the courses :—		
			D.M.R. course.	*C.R.A. course.*
			RS.	RS.
		Non-residential scholarship at no-fee rate (for books) ..	150	50
		Non-residential scholarship at half-fee rate (half tuition fee plus the amount required for books) ..	350	150

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
XIII. For Music courses.	Various periods.	Non-residential scholarships of the values shown below will be awarded to girl pupils belonging to eligible communities who take up training courses in music in the following institutions :—
Madras University Diploma in Indian Music.	2 years	Rs. 30 full-fee rate a year.
Annamalai University Diploma in Sangeetha Bhushana.	4 years	Rs. 15 no-fee rate in the first year and Rs. 14 no-fee rate a year during the subsequent years.
Madras Teachers' College of Music —Teachers' Certificate in Music.	9 months ..	Rs. 27 half-fee rate for the whole course.
XIV. For Co-operative training and education.	9 months ..	Eight scholarships of the values shown below will be awarded to Scheduled caste students for co-operative training and education at two for each of the co-operative institutes at Coimbatore, Tanjore, Rajahmundry and Anantapur :— (*a*) Tuition fee for the whole course at Rs. 50 each.

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
		(*b*) Boarding and lodging charges for nine months at Rs. 30 each per mensem.

NOTE.—The unutilized scholarships of one institute will be utilized in another institute.

XV. For Overseer course.	2 years ..	.. Non-residential scholarships of the value shown below will be awarded to the pupils belonging to the communities eligible for help by the Harijan Welfare Department who take up the overseer course in the College of Engineering, Guindy :— RS. A. (*a*) First-year course. 188 2 (*b*) Second-year course. 13 2 The non-residential scholarships will be converted into residential scholarships in deserving cases at such rates as are adequate to cover the actual lodging and boarding charges of the students.
XVI. M.S. course.	2 years ..	.. Two non-residential scholarships of the value of Rs. 480 each

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
		at half-fee rate for the whole course will be awarded to the pupils of the eligible communities. The non-residenial scholarships will be converted into residential scholarships so as to meet the actual boarding and lodging charges also in deserving cases.
XVII. For Diploma course in Politics and Public Administration.	2 years ..	Two non-resident scholarships at Rs. 160 for the first year only, for purchase of books. The non-residential scholarships will be converted into residential scholarships so as to meet the actual boarding and lodging charges also in deserving cases.
XVIII. For Training in Fruit-canning and preservation at the Fruit-Research Station, Kodur.	3 months. ..	Two scholarships at the rate of Rs. 25 per mensem will be awarded to Harijan canditates selected for the training, towards the expenses of their boarding and lodging and for the purchase of note-books, etc.

Nature of scholarship.	*Period of course.*	*Value of scholarship.*
XIX. Research work in Economics in the University of Madras.	1 year	Four non-residential scholarships (two for Harijans and two for Backward communities) at the rate of Rs. 30 each per annum will be granted.

The Physical Education scholarships and the midwifery scholarships are residential scholarships and include charges for boarding and lodging. The scholarships for the commerical and other professional courses of study are non-residential ones. Residential scholarships will be granted to deserving students undergoing professional courses of study.

Applications for the course of study in Midwifery should reach the Director on or before the 15th May. In other cases the applications should reach the Director before the 15th August.

(The students belonging to the eligible communities studying in the Engineering Colleges will be allowed to retain the scholarships for only one failure and those studying in the Medical Colleges for two failures for the period of the entire course.)

Industrial Education.

Two hundred industrial scholarships are awarded every year by the Director of Harijan Welfare to pupils belonging to the communities eligible for help by the Harijan Welfare Department seeking industrial education. Persons belonging to these communities who have been converted to Christianity or any other religion and their descendants are also eligible for these concessions. After making provisions for renewal of the scholarships awarded last year, a limited number as detailed below in Sections A, B, C, D and E will be available for award every year.

The scholarships will be granted only to pupils of promise whose pecuniary circumstances are certified to be such as to prevent them from learning the particular trade or profession without the assistance of the scholarships.

Section A.

About 35 residential scholarships will be awarded to pupils taking such courses as carpentry, blacksmithy, etc., in the St. Joseph's Industrial Schools at Gunadala near Vijayavada, at Tindivanam in South Arcot, at Ootcamund in the Nilgiris and at Tiruchirappalli; in the Methodist Mission Industrial School at Karur, Tiruchirappalli; in the A.A.M. Industrial School at Velacheri, near St. Thomas Mount; and in the Pasumalai Trade School near Madurai.

The rates of these scholarships vary from Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 per annum and include charges on account of boarding, etc., in the boarding homes attached to the institutions in accordance with the arrangements made by the Director of Harijan Welfare with the institutions concerned. The rates for the present will be—

Name of institution.	*Yearly value of scholarship.*				
	First year course.	*Second year course.*	*Third year course.*	*Fourth year course.*	*Fifth year course.*
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
St. Joseph's Industrial School at Gunadala near Vijayavada.	87·8	77·8	80	60	50
St. Joseph's Industrial Schools at Tindivanam, Tiruchirappalli and Ootacamund.	80	80	60	50	40
Methodist Mission Industrial School at Karur.	80	80	65	55	40
Pasumalai Trade School near Madurai.	55	55	55	55	55
A.A.M. Industrial School, Velacheri, near St. Thomas Mount.	100	100	80	60	40

Pupils undergoing training in other industrial schools recognized by the Director of Industries and Commerce are also

eligible for residential scholarships provided they stay in the hostels, if any, attached to the institutions or in recognized boarding homes. The scholarships will be awarded at a maximum rate of Rs. 10 per mensem for ten months in a year gradually decreasing to a maximum of Rs. 5 per mensem in the fifth year, account being taken of the earning capacity of the pupils in the third and subsequent years of their training.

The selection of pupils for these scholarships will ordinarily be restricted to applicants belonging to the districts in which the institutions are situated. Only those coming from places more than 5 miles away from the institutions concerned and who have passed at least Standard V in a day school and are between 12 and 15 years of age, are eligible for these scholarships. The age-limit will be relaxed in respect of deserving cases.

Applications should be in the prescribed form and should be accompanied by the school-leaving certificate in original and the written consent of the parent, or, if no parent is alive, of the guardian, agreeing to send the applicant for residential training in the institution concerned.

Applications for these scholarships should reach the Director of Harijan Welfare before the 15th August.

Section B.

About 35 non-residential scholarships will be awarded to pupils taking such courses as carpentry, blacksmithy, etc., in institutions recognized by the Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, as the Government School of Arts and Crafts, Chengalvaraya Naicker's Technical and Industrial Institute, etc., in the City of Madras, and such other in the mufassal.

The maximum annual value of these scholarships will be—

Year of course.	*Where the institution levies any fees on account of tuition.*	*Where the institution levies no fees on account of tuition.*
	RS.	RS.
First year	42	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Second year	48	12
Third year	60	15
Fourth year	72	18
Fifth year	84	21

NOTE.—The scholarships will be granted after taking into consideration the fee concessions under rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules.

In addition, a non-recurring bonus calculated at Rs. 6 for each year of the course during which the pupil was a scholarship-holder and subject to a maximum of Rs. 30 will be paid to him on his satisfactorily completing the course. Claims for bonus should be made within a period of twelve months after completion of the course.

Applicants should not have exceeded 20 years of age on the 1st July of the year in which the scholarship is tenable and should have passed at least Standard V in a day-school. The age-limit will be relaxed in respect of deserving cases. Applications in the prescribed form should reach the Director of Harijan Welfare before the 15th August.

Section C.

Two scholarships intended to cover boarding and other charges will be awarded to pupils selected for training as apprentice-fitters in the Engineering department of the Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company, Limited, Samalkot, near Kakinada. The period of apprenticeship is five years. The annual value of these scholarships will be Rs. 60 for each of the first two years and Rs. 84 for each of the remaining three years. The selection of candidates for these scholarships will ordinarily be restricted to applicants of the East Godavari district. Only those coming from places more than 5 miles away from the institution are eligible for these scholarships. Applicants should be between 17 and 20 years of age on 1st July of the year in which the scholarship is tenable and should have passed at least Form III or Standard VIII in a day-school.

Applications in the prescribed form should reach the Director of Harijan Welfare before the 15th August.

Section D.

A few scholarships will be awarded to pupils selected to undergo apprenticeships in motor car mechanism in the United Motors, Limited, Coimbatore, the Canara Public Conveyance Company, Kodialbail, Mangalore, the Andhra Engineering Company and the St. Aloysius Works, Visakhapatnam.

These firms levy no tuition fees; some of them give the apprentices a small pay during their apprenticeship. The periods of apprenticeship are two years in the Canara Public Conveyance Company, three years in the Andhra Engineering Company, Visa-

khapatnam, three to five years in the United Motors, Limited, Coimbatore, and five years in the St. Aloysius Works, Visakhapatnam.

The selection of pupils for apprentice ship in the mufassal workshops mentioned above will be restricted to residents of the districts in which the workshops are situated. The annual value of the scholarships in their cases will be Rs. 60, if living at home. and getting no pay from their employer or if living away from home and getting pay from their employer; Rs. 90, if living away from home and getting no pay from their employer; and Rs. 30, if living at home and getting paid by their employer.

Applicants for these scholarships should have completed Form III or Standard VIII in a day school and should have been declared fit for promotion to the higher class. The scholarships will not be granted to those who are either below 17 or above 18 years of age on the 1st July of the year in which the scholarship is tenable. Applications in the prescribed form accompanied by school-leaving certificates in original should reach the Director of Harijan Welfare before the 15th August.

Section E.

Three scholarships will be awarded to pupils selected for training as apprentices in the Public Works Department Workshops; one each at Madras, Vijayavada and Dowlaishwaram.

The selection of candidate for the Madras City Workshops will be restricted to applicants from the Tamil districts of the Presidency, who have passed S.S.L.C. and have been declared eligible for the college course. Applicants should not be below 15 or above 20 years of age on the 1st July of the year in which the scholarship is tenable.

The candidate selected for the Madras City Workshops will be given a non-residential industrial scholarship. A seat will be reserved for him in the Government School of Technology, Madras, which he has to join on selection. If the selection is made from among the applicants belonging to the mufassal, the candidate will, in addition, be provided with free board and lodging in the Slater Hostel, Madras.

Applicants for the apprenticeship in the Public Works Department Workshops at Vijayavada and Dowlaishwaram should have passed at least Form III. Selection will be made only from-those

belonging to the Telugu districts of the Presidency who are not below 15 or above 18 years of age on the 1st July of the year in which the scholarship is tenable. The selected candidate will be given a scholarship of the annual value of Rs. 42 which, together with the daily wage of annas four he will get from the workshops, is intended to cover boarding and other charges.

Every applicant for apprenticeship in the Public Works Department Workshops should produce in original his school-leaving certificate, a medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner to the effect that he is of good physique and fit to undergo the hard training in the workshops, and at least two testimonials covering the three years immediately preceding the date of application about his character and respectability.

Applications for these scholarships in the prescribed form accompanied by the required documents should reach the Director of Harijan Welfare before the 15th August.

The scholarship will be continued in subsequent years at the prevailing rates, on receipt of a report from the head of institution about the progress and conduct of the apprentice, but will cease immediately the apprentice's pay in the workshops amount to Rs. 15 a month.

APPENDIX III.

HOSTELS MAINTAINED BY THE HARIJAN WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

1. *Slater Hostel, Madras.*—This hostel is intended for Harijan boys serving as apprentices or undergoing industrial training in the City of Madras. The sanctioned number of free boarders in the hostel is 30. Paying boarders may also be admitted into the hostel.

2. *Sundaracharlu Hostel, Salem.*—This hostel is run for Harijan boys studying in Salem town. The sanctioned strength of the hostel is 60.

3. *Government Scheduled Classes Hostel, Kozhikode.*—This hostel is intended for Harijan boys studying in Kozhikode. The sanctioned strength of the hostel is 50. There is accommodation also for five paying boarders in it.

4. *Government Scheduled Classes Hostel, Masulipatnam.*—This hostel is intended for Harijan boys studying in Masulipatnam. The strength of the hostel is 190.

5 & 6. *Government Nandanar Hostels for Boys and Girls, Chidambaram.*—These hostels are intended for Harijan boys and girls studying in Chidambaram. There are 320 boys and 117 girls in the hostels.

7. *Harijan Welfare Hostel, Ootacamund, the Nilgiris.*—The hostel is under the management of the Ootacamund Municipality assisted by an Advisory Committee with the Collector of the Nilgiris as its ex-officio President. The strength of the hostel is 23 including one paying boarder.

8. *Labour Hostel, Hubbuthalai, the Nilgiris.*—The hostel is under the management of the District Board, the Nilgiris, assisted by an Advisory Committee with the Revenue Divisional Officer, Coonoor, as the ex-officio President. The strength of the hostel is 37. Paying boarders are also admitted into the hostel.

9. *Government Harijan Hostel for Girls, Anantapur.*—The hostel is under the management of the District Harijan Sevak Sangh and supervised by the Collector of Anantapur. There is place for 18 free boarders.

10, 11 & 12. *Government Harijan Hostels at Rajampet (Cuddapah district), Kotagiri (the Nilgiris) and Visakhapatnam.*—These hostels were started on 19th September 1948, 10th January 1949 and 10th October 1948 with a strength of 15, 24 and 11 boarders, respectively, in accordance with G.O. Ms. No. 3612, Development, dated 7th July 1948.

13. *M. C. Rajah Hostel, Madras.*—This hostel is maintained for the benefit of Harijan students in colleges. The strength of the hostel is 15. It was previously run by Sri B. S. Murthy, M.L.A. and was taken over by the Government with effect from the school year 1950–51.

14. *Harijan Hostel, Ootacamund.*—This hostel is intended for the benefit of Harijan boys. The strength of the hostel is 16. The Government Syce's quarters, Ootacamund, has been allotted for this hostel in G.O. Ms. No. 3716, P.W., dated 6th October 1949.

15. *Harijan Hostel, Coondapoor, South Kanara district.*—This hostel which was managed by Harijan Sevak Sangh has been

taken over by the Government with effect from the school year 1950–51 for the benefit of the Harijan boys. The strength of the hostel is 20.

16. *Harijan Hostel, Chinnathadagam, Coimbatore.*—This hostel has been opened for the benefit of the Irular children. The strength of this hostel is 25.

17. *Harijan Hostel at Villupuram, South Arcot district.*—This hostel has been opened for the benefit of Harijan students with effect from 1950–51. The strength of the hostel is 30.

18. *Harijan Hostel for Girls at Tiruchirappalli.*—This hostel has been opened for the benefit of Harijan boarders with effect from 1950–51 as there is no other Girls' hostel in the district. The strength of the hostel is 25.

19. *Harijan Hostel at Ponneri, Chingleput district.*—This hostel which was previously functioning unsatisfactorily, was taken over by the Government with effect from the school year 1950–51. The strength of the hostel is 20.

20, 21 & 22. *Harijan Hostels at Krishnagiri (Salem district), Srikakulam, Palghat (Malabar).*—These hostels have been ordered to to be opened during 1951–52 with a strength of 20, 40 and 25 boarders, respectively.

APPENDIX IV.

THE REMOVAL OF CIVIL DISABILITIES ACT, 1938 (MADRAS ACT XXI OF 1938).

As modified up to the 20th January 1950.

REFERENCES TO PAPERS CONNECTED WITH THE PRINCIPAL ACT AND THE AMENDING ACT.

1. *The Removal of Civil Disabilities Act*, 1938 (*Madras Act XXI of* 1938).

[For Statement of Objects and Reasons *see* Part IV of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 12th October 1937, page 54 ; for proceedings in Assembly, *see* Madras Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume VI, dated the 30th March 1938, pages 1169–1185 ; Volume VII, dated the 17th August 1938, pages 160–167 ; for report of the Select Committee, *see* ibid. pages 242–243 ; for proceedings in Council, *see* Madras Legislative Council Debates, Volume V, dated the 12th December 1939, pages 46–56 ; for Act, *see* Part IV of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 7th February 1939, pages 47-48.]

2. *The Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act*, 1947 (*Madras Act XI of* 1947).

[For Statement of Objects and Reasons please *see* Part IV-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 21st January 1947, page 42; for proceedings in Assembly, *see* Madras Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume V, dated the 31st March 1949, pages 395–440; for proceedings in Council, *see* Madras Legislative Council Debates, Volume XII, No. 4, dated the 10th February 1947, pages 154–160, Volume XII, No. 5, dated the 1st February 1947, pages 189–203; for Act, *see* Part IV-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 10th June 1947, pages 25–26.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Preamble.
SECTIONS.
1 Short title and extent.
2 Social disabilities not to be recognized by law.
3 Discrimination against Harijans, etc., prohibited.
4 'Secular institution' explained.
5 Refusal of sale of article to Harijans, etc., prohibited.
6 Penalties.
7 Offences under the Act to be cognizable.

PASSED BY THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE.

[Received the assent of the Governor-General on the 24th January 1939, first published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 7th February 1939.]

An Act to provide for the removal of civil disabilities among certain classes of Hindus.

WHEREAS it is increasingly felt by the Hindu community that the disabilities, which are imposed by social custom and usage on certain classes of Hindus commonly known as Harijans, Untouchables or Depressed Classes, and which have been in certain matters even legally recognized in the adjudication of rights and duties in civil and criminal proceedings, are repugnant to modern conditions and ideas of justice and social solidarity, and should no longer be recognized by law or otherwise enforced; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, 1938. Short title and extent.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

2. Notwithstanding any law, custom, usage or prescription to the contrary, no Hindu shall, by reason merely of his belonging to any particular community or class known as Harijans, Untouchables, Social disabilities not to be recognized by law.

(Depressed Classes) or the like, be prevented or disabled from being appointed to any public office or (having access to or using) any public stream, river, well, tank, pathway, sanitary convenience, or means of transport or any secular institution which the general public belonging to all other classes and communities of Hindus have (a right of access to or a right to use) or which is dedicated or maintaineed or licensed for the use of the general public or which is maintained or paid for out of the funds of the State or a local authority; and no Civil, Criminal or Revenue Court in adjudicating any matter or executing any order and no public or local authority in (conducting the affairs) entrusted to such authority shall recognize any custom, usage or (prescriptive right under) which it is sought to impose any civil disability on any person by reason of his belonging to any of the classes or communities aforesaid, or by reason of any (act or omission) on the part of such person which would not furnish grounds for such disability if he did not belong to such class or community.

Descrimination against Harijans, etc., prohibited.

3. No person owning, or being in charge of, any secular institution referred to in section 2, shall—

(i) impose or cause or suffer to be imposed any restriction on any person belonging to any community or class referred to in section 2, or

(ii) do or omit to do anything, or cause or suffer anything to be done or omitted to be done, so as to result in discrimination against any person belonging to any such class or community, merely on the ground that he belongs to such community or class.

'Secular institution,' explained.

4. For the purposes of this Act, the expression 'secular institution' includes among others—

(i) any refreshment room, restaurant, cafe, coffee house, eating house, boarding house, lodging house, hostel, hotel or any other place where persons are provided with food, drink, shelter or sleeping or other accommodation;

(ii) any place of public entertainment or amusement;

(iii) any premises where goods are sold, any laundry, any shaving or hair dressing saloon or any other place where services are rendered to customers;

(iv) any place used for the burial, cremation or disposal otherwise, of the dead.

5. No dealer shall refuse to sell, or withhold from sale any article which is kept by him for sale, to any person belonging to any community on the ground that he belongs to such community.

Refusal of sale of articles to Harijans, etc., prohibited.

6. Whoever—

Penalties.

(i) prevents a person belonging to any community or class referred to in section 2 from exercising any civil right or privilege to which he is entitled under this Act, or

(ii) molests or obstructs any such person in the exercise of any such right or privilege, or

(iii) contravenes the provisions of sections 3 and 5, shall be punishable, in the case of a first offence, with fine which may extend to fifty rupees, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence, with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

7. All offences punishable under this Act shall be cognizable.

Offences under Act to be cognizable.

APPENDIX V.

MADRAS ACT No. V OF 1947 (AS AMENDED BY MADRAS ACT XIII OF 1949).

[Received the assent of the Governor-General on the 11th May 1947, first published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 13th May 1947.]

An Act to authorize entry into Hindu temples in the Province of Madras and the offer of worship therein by all classes of Hindus.

WHEREAS it is the policy of the Provincial Government to remove the disabilities imposed on certain classes of Hindus against entry into Hindu temples in the Province;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government are satisfied, from the rapidity with which, under pressure of Hindu public opinion, a number of temples have been thrown open to certain classes of Hindus in recent months, under the provisions of the Madras Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act, 1939, that the time has now arrived for throwing open to all classes of Hindus, every Hindu temple in the Province;

Madras Act XXII of 1939.

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government consider that the provisions of the said Act are inadequate for the early and complete implementation of the policy of the Provincial Government aforesaid: It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

(3) This section shall come into force at once; and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, appoint.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(1) 'temple' means a place, by whatever name known, which is dedicated to, or for the benefit of, or used as of right by, the Hindu community or any section thereof as a place of public religious worship, and includes subsidiary shrines and mantapams attached to such place;

(2) 'worship' means such religious service as the bulk of the worshippers may offer, or participate in, in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be made under this Act.

Right of excluded classes to enter and offer worship in temples.

3. (1) Notwithstanding any law, custom or usage to the contrary every Hindu irrespective of the caste or sect to which he belongs shall be entitled to enter any Hindu temple and offer worship therein in the same manner and to the same extent as Hindus in general or any section of Hindus and no Hindu by reason only of such entry or worship, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, be deemed to have committed any actionable wrong or offence or be sued or prosecuted therefor.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, it is hereby declared that the right conferred by sub-section (1) shall include the following rights if, and to the extent to which, they are enjoyed by Hindus in general or any section of Hindus :—

(*a*) the right to bathe in, or use the waters of, any sacred tank, well, spring or water-course appurtenant to the temple, whether situated within or outside the precincts thereof;

(*b*) the right of passage over any sacred place, including a hill or hillock or a road, street or pathway, which is requisite for obtaining access to the temple.

4. The trustee or other authority in charge of a temple shall have power, subject to the control of the Provincial Government and to any rules which may be made by them, to make regulations for the maintenance of order and decorum in the temple and the due observance of the religious rites and ceremonies performed in the temple, but such regulations shall not discriminate in any way against any Hindu on the ground that he belongs to a particular caste or sect.

5. (1) No suit for damages, injunction or declaration or for any other relief, no prosecution for any offence, and no application or other proceeding under the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926, or any other law, shall be instituted in respect of any entry into or worship in any temple, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, on the sole ground that such entry or worship is by a Hindu belonging to a particular caste or sect.

(2) No suit, prosecution, application or proceeding of the nature aforesaid, instituted before the commencement of this Act, shall be continued thereafter, without the sanction of the Provincial Government.

6. If any question arises as to whether a place is or is not a temple as defined in this Act, the question shall be referred to the Provincial Government and their decision shall be final subject, however, to any decree passed by a competent civil court in a suit filed before it within six months of the date of the decision of the Provincial Government.

7. Whoever—

(i) prevents a Hindu from exercising any right conferred by this Act, or

(ii) molests or obstructs a Hindu in the exercise of any such right shall be punishable, in the case of a first offence, with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence, with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

7-A. All offences punishable under section 7 shall be cognizable.

8. (1) The Provincial Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act in respect of temples generally or of any temple or class of temples.

(2) All rules made under this section shall be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and, on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

Power to remove difficulties.

9. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Provincial Government, as occasion requires, may, by order, do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

Repeals. Madras Act XX of 1938. Madras Act XXII of 1939.

10. The Malabar Temple Entry Act, 1938, and the Madras Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act, 1939, are hereby repealed.

Madras Act II of 1927. Amendment of section 40, Madras Act II of 1927.

11. In section 40 of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926, for the words and figures "Subject to the provisions of the Malabar Temple Entry Act, 1938, and the Madras Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act, 1939," the words and figures "Subject to the provisions of the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947," shall be substituted.

362.8

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.